Bengaluru Sunday, September 28, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 269 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

38 dead in stampede at actor Vijay's rally in Karur

P3

Travel *Page17*

Munich magic

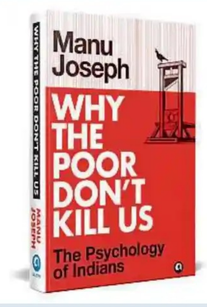
This Oktoberfest, explore the Bavarian capital for its culture, heritage, art and Alpine beauty

Art & Pursuits *Page18*

Cosmic wonders

A new exhibition is shifting the focus from popular deities to lesser-known demigods, each richly symbolic

Books *Page15*



The business of inequality

Why is it that the rich and the poor coexist peacefully? Author Manu Joseph attemps to decode this conundrum

Food & Drink *Page16*

Navaratri delights

Choose from a range of lip-smacking Gujarati dishes to Karnataka's very own Dasara platter, this festive season

Nurturing sports: A case for good governance

NANDAN KAMATH

Over 40,000 privately-controlled federations are, together, tasked with governing sport across our nation. Yet, only one in every ten Indians has ever participated in organised sport. The first national-level law relating to sports, the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, steps into this state of play.

Most of us have heard of The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and a handful of other federations. We follow the Indian teams selected by these private bodies, and we watch the matches they organise. There are over 50 national-level sports federations like these — one for each sport. As spectators and consumers, we interact with these organisations transactionally, with the benefit of some distance. Athletes have a deeper relationship with sports bodies, especially local federations that shape their daily lives and professional trajectories.

The public's relationship with sports federations has been fraught, with few of these bodies performing their stipulated functions adequately. The federations' roles include nurturing national sporting talent, and unlocking the potential of athletes while enabling them to reach the podium.

It might come as a revelation to the average Indian that sports federations are obliged to serve the interests of the wider public, rather than those of their leaders and members. Do they successfully encourage, support and inspire us to move, play and excel? In searching for an answer, the yawning gap between public function and current reality becomes apparent.

Each of our 50+ national sports federations is meant to have affiliated members in every state and union territory. The state federations should, ideally, have their own affiliated units in every district. That would make for over 1,500 state federations and more than 40,000 district federations across the country. This is the concept of a 'sports pyramid' – a hierarchical, multi-layered organisation of federations that are obliged to govern and promote sports at the national, state and district levels.

▸ Sporting culture, Page 2

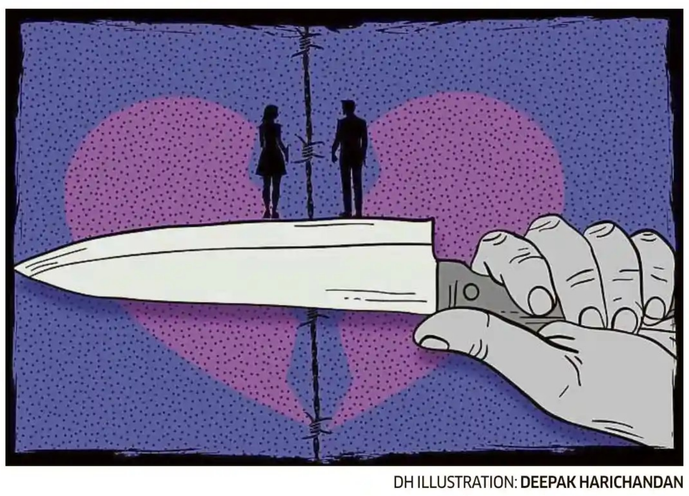
The **SUNDAY STORY**

Between love and death: Why 'honour' killings persist

Despite education, progress and anti-caste advocacy, 'honour' killings continue in India, often with tacit political silence and social approval

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Kavin Selvaganesh, a talented 27-year-old Dalit software engineer with a promising career and a well-paying job, seemed to have a bright future ahead. On the evening of July 27, the streets of Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, witnessed a brutal crime that shattered that promise.



DH ILLUSTRATION: **DEEPAK HARICHANDAN**

INSIGHT

The perpetrator was S Surjith, the brother of Kavin's longtime girlfriend, Subhashini. Though Kavin and Subhashini's relationship was not new and had begun in school, enduring through college and work, there was relentless opposition from Subhashini's family.

From the influential Maravar community, her family's fierce rejection of Kavin was rooted in caste prejudice, which eventually led to the horrific act of violence.

What added a complex layer to the crime was that Subhashini's parents, Saravanan and Krishnakumari, were sub-inspectors of police at the time. Both were suspended following the murder, and Saravanan is currently in judicial custody along with his son.

A month later, on August 29, in a village in Kalaburagi district, Karnataka, scores of villagers somberly attended the last rites of 18-year-old Kavitha. She was suspected of having died by suicide after consuming pesticides.

However, it later came to light that she was murdered by her father, Shankar Kolkur, a Lingayat, because she had fallen in love with 21-year-old Malappa Poojari from the Kuruba community.

Shankar, with the help of two of his relatives, first smothered Kavitha to death and then poured pesticide into her mouth to present it as a suicide.

The father justified his actions, claiming that by attempting to marry a Kuruba boy, his daughter had tarnished the family's reputation.

At the heart of both killings is the persistence of caste hierarchy and misplaced notions of honour bound to it, reinforced by traditional rivalries between communities. The irony is stark: Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, lands of reformers like Basavanna and EVR Periyar, who challenged caste discrimination, still see lives lost for love.

In Tamil Nadu, as many as 66 people have fallen victim to killings in the name of honour between 2016 and 2025, according to Evidence, an NGO that documents such crimes.

However, data shared by the government in Parliament in 2023 says only three 'honour' killings have been recorded in the state between 2017 and 2021, in the state, highlighting how only a fraction of such killings come to light.

This phenomenon applies to the whole country — among the reported cases, Uttar Pradesh tops the list by accounting for 30% of total 'honour' killings in India during the above period. In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, 'honour' killings transcend traditional caste hierarchies, with violence occurring across different caste combinations.

▸ Caste and gender, Page 2

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Greater Bengaluru Authority
and
5 Bengaluru CIty Corporations

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

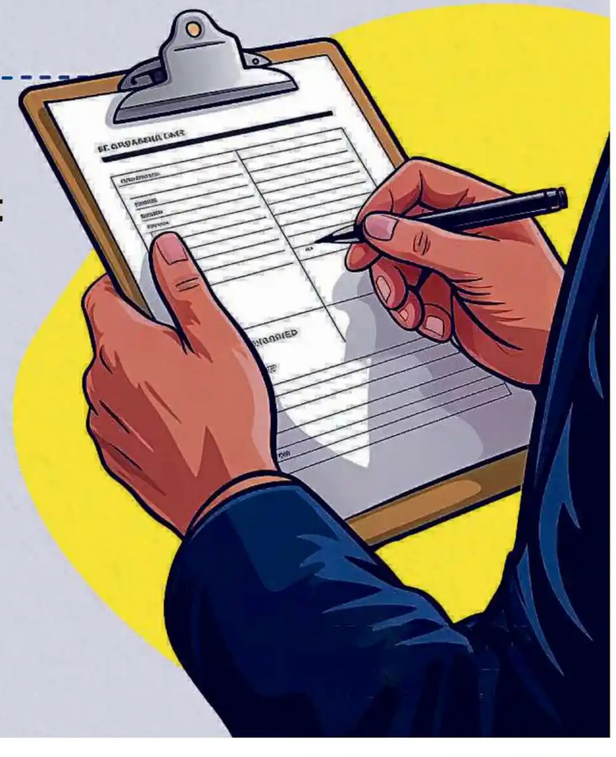
Dear Socio-Educational Survey Enumerators of Bengaluru City

Enumerator have been appointed to do a public service for Karnataka.

Please, attend training on 29.09.2025 at 2.30 PM at your assigned training place without fail.

Please note that the Chief Commissioner has been entrusted the task of conducting the survey on behalf of the Government and shall be the Disciplinary authority including Suspension till completion of survey.

Enumerators can view their appointment orders at https://SES.BBMP.gov.in / and also give 10 choices of wards for the duty.



Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority

VIT®
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

Fueling Ideas. Powering Change.

graVITas '25
UNLEASH YOUR GENIUS
Sustainable Tomorrow, Shaped Today!

We thank all our sponsors, partners, alumni, speakers and the students for making graVITas'25 a grand success

30 Lakh+ Prize pool | 40,000 Footfall | 200+ Events | 70+ Industries | 20+ Countries

Valedictory

CHIEF GUEST

Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Hoskote & Chairman, Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS)

GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. Shashank Shah
Director & Senior Specialist, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Date & Time
28th September 2025
04:00 PM

Venue
Anna Auditorium,
VIT Vellore

Presided by
Dr. G. Viswanathan
Founder & Chancellor

For further information, Check out our Website
gravitas.vit.ac.in

SPONSOR
ORACLE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PARTNERS
Startup Ecosystem: StartupTN
TV Media: CNN NEWS18
Radio: Hello FM

graVITas 2025 | vitgravitas | graVITas VIT | https://gravitas.vit.ac.in

The cost of caste transgression

Caste and gender, from Page 1

Kerala, another state where anti-caste movements have been strong, also continues to report 'honour' killings, underlining the fact that education and development do not necessarily prevent crimes.

Though South India boasts of much better social indicators than the rest of the country, such crimes have persisted in the name of reclaiming the honour of a family or caste.

The reaction is particularly violent when the boy is a Dalit or from an oppressed community.

'Honour' killings are not restricted to inter-caste or inter-religious marriages. They also occur when both individuals belong to the same caste; in this case, the reason for the murder is economic factors.

Changing nature

Over the decades, the nature of 'honour' killings has also evolved, with caste organisations, often unconnected to the families involved, taking up the task of 'reclaiming' honour. Social media adds another dimension, in Kavin's case, caste organisations in Tamil Nadu used social media to blame the victim and glorify the perpetrator as a scapegoat, asserting that Surjith 'reclaimed' his family's and the caste's lost 'honour'.

Activists say most 'honour' killings are meticulously planned, with families laying well-laid traps for couples. For instance, Kavin met Subashini on July 27 at a clinic where she worked as a Siddha consultant, at her request. Surjith, who was not to be there, took him aside ostensibly to take him to meet his parents and hacked him to death.

Dr Sivabalan Elangovan, a psychiatrist, explained that caste continues to shape daily lives despite education and progress, and persists because families unconsciously protect and pass on caste discipline under the guise of customs and culture.

"Caste offers many birth advantages. It gives someone the feeling that they already stand above someone else. This sense of superiority does not go away, and people are not prepared to lose it. That is why, at an individual level, nobody is ready to renounce caste, even if they claim they are against it," he said.

Elangovan believes inter-caste marriage is perceived as the single biggest threat to the caste system, especially when it involves a privileged caste Hindu woman marrying a Dalit man.

"Because the family feels they can no longer face their relatives, neighbours and village peers at temples, festivals or marriages. The social shame comes not only from the marriage itself but from the imagined judgment of fellow caste members. Thus, to protect honour, families or groups may go to any extreme," the psychiatrist added.

'Honour' killings do not happen everywhere, and their occurrence depends on how strongly the caste system is glorified in that region, the family's support base, local caste organisations, and the temperament of family members.

Activist A Kathir, who runs the NGO Evidence, offers a different perspective. "Caste is not an obstacle to love, but love is an obstacle to caste. 'Honour' killings must be viewed intersectionally, as it is influenced by patriarchy, gender and caste. Families do not accept even if a woman falls in love with a man from the same caste. The problem there is not caste but the woman exercising her independence," Kathir said.

Political patronage

Kalaburagi-based social activist Neela K views such killings as part of a design to instil fear in society.

"It is unfortunate that such crimes receive political patronage and appreciation from a section of society. Discrimination is not limited to any one religion or caste; it is prevalent across society, and the worst affected by this urge to protect the 'honour' of the family are more in socially and/or economically deprived families," Neela told *DH*.

Citing media reports, writer and activist Meenakshi Bali, says the frequency of reported 'honour' killings in Karnataka has increased over the last two decades.

"Earlier, people used to disown their children for inter-caste marriage, or society used to financially or socially boycott such couples. However, now these families have been killing them to keep their reputation intact," she said. "I fail to understand how their family's reputation remains intact after killing their own daughters or sons," she added.

Neela laid the blame on politicians, besides caste organisations and society, for encouraging and patronising divisions. "Inter-caste marriage does not help them (politicians) consolidate votes. But tacit opposition, exerting power against it, brings them community support," she said.

Gowsalya Shankar, who became an activist after her husband Shankar, a Dalit, was killed for marrying her, said political parties do not speak out against 'honour' killings due to fear of losing caste support, but also because they are wary of dominant caste MLAs and MPs. She highlighted how Chief Minister M K Stalin, who had spoken against 'honour' killings while in the Opposition, has remained silent on the issue since coming to power in 2021.

C Lakshmanan, a retired professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), believes that caste oppression against Dalit communities is sustained because economic, political, and cultural powers are concentrated among dominant OBC groups, which control land, business and education.

Speaking from Tamil Nadu's perspective, Lakshmanan said the Dravidian parties still believe social justice is merely reservation, but they do not understand that the slogan has to travel beyond reservations in government jobs or educational institutions.

He added that caste-based murders, violence, and barbarity should not be viewed as a mere law and order problem but as a political issue.

Tamil Nadu has in the past witnessed a political party, Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), which wields considerable influence among Vanniyars, a dominant OBC community spread across north and central Tamil Nadu, openly propagating violence against Dalits for marrying girls from their caste.

It used the marriage of Ilavarasan, a Dalit youth, to Divya, a Vanniyar, as a pretext for the riots to consolidate all OBC parties in favour of the party and against Dalits to win the Dharmapuri Lok Sabha seat in 2014.

The party was the first to coin the term *nadaga kadhal* (staged love) in 2012, alleging that Dalit youth, dressed in flashy shirts and trousers, were luring women from other caste communities such as the Vanniyars. It also advocated for making parental consent mandatory for marriages involving individuals even above the age of 21.

Although inter-caste marriage is officially encouraged by every government and promoted as a way to break down social barriers, the reality often tells a different story. States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu offer cash incentives to such couples, but caste pride continues to stand in the way of genuine acceptance.

Activist Neela says that growing communalism and radicalisation are deepening divisions between castes and religions. She also notes that the lack of interdependence among communities is creating a trust deficit in society, further fuelling caste-based hatred.

Another dimension to the killings is the fact that many intermediary castes see Dalit assertion as a major threat to their caste hierarchy.

"Collectively, society seems to move toward anti-caste awareness, but individually, many still carry strong casteist anxieties. These people find validation and even reward for expressing those attitudes on anonymous platforms. That is why casteist pride is being reproduced in digital spaces," he added.

Legal hurdles

Kathir, who drafted The Freedom of Marriage and Association and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour in 2022 and submitted it to over a dozen political leaders across the country, strongly advocates for a special law that exclusively deals with 'honour' killings.

Since such killings have become institutionalised, a separate law is needed to penalise everyone who abets the crime and helps the perpetrators, he adds. He cites data – of the tens of 'honour' killing cases filed in Tamil Nadu, convictions have happened only in seven cases – all under the provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities (SC/ST) Act – to bolster his point why the issue should be looked beyond caste.

"This is a clear indicator that we need a special law. We have to bring laws according to the way crimes evolve," he said.

The proposal calls for punishment of not less than five years and a fine of Rs 5 lakh for honour crimes, rigorous imprisonment for life with a fine of a minimum of Rs 10 lakh or confiscation of property of similar value for causing death.

Bhavani B Mohan, senior advocate, said one has to acknowledge the harsh reality that police, meant to uphold constitutional goals, are themselves divided along caste lines. He was the public prosecutor in the murder case of Gokulraj, a Dalit youth, for talking to his girlfriend, Swathi, from the Gounder caste.

"Despite these constitutional protections, social reality lags. Discrimination and stratification exist even within religions and castes. The obsession with maintaining marriage within one's own caste perpetuates these structures," he said.

J Sandhya, an advocate and a Kerala-based activist, opined that government statistics on 'honour' killings do not reflect the real picture.

"There are many crimes, including suicides, in which loss of 'honour' is a triggering factor. But the police are not required to record this as a reason," she said.

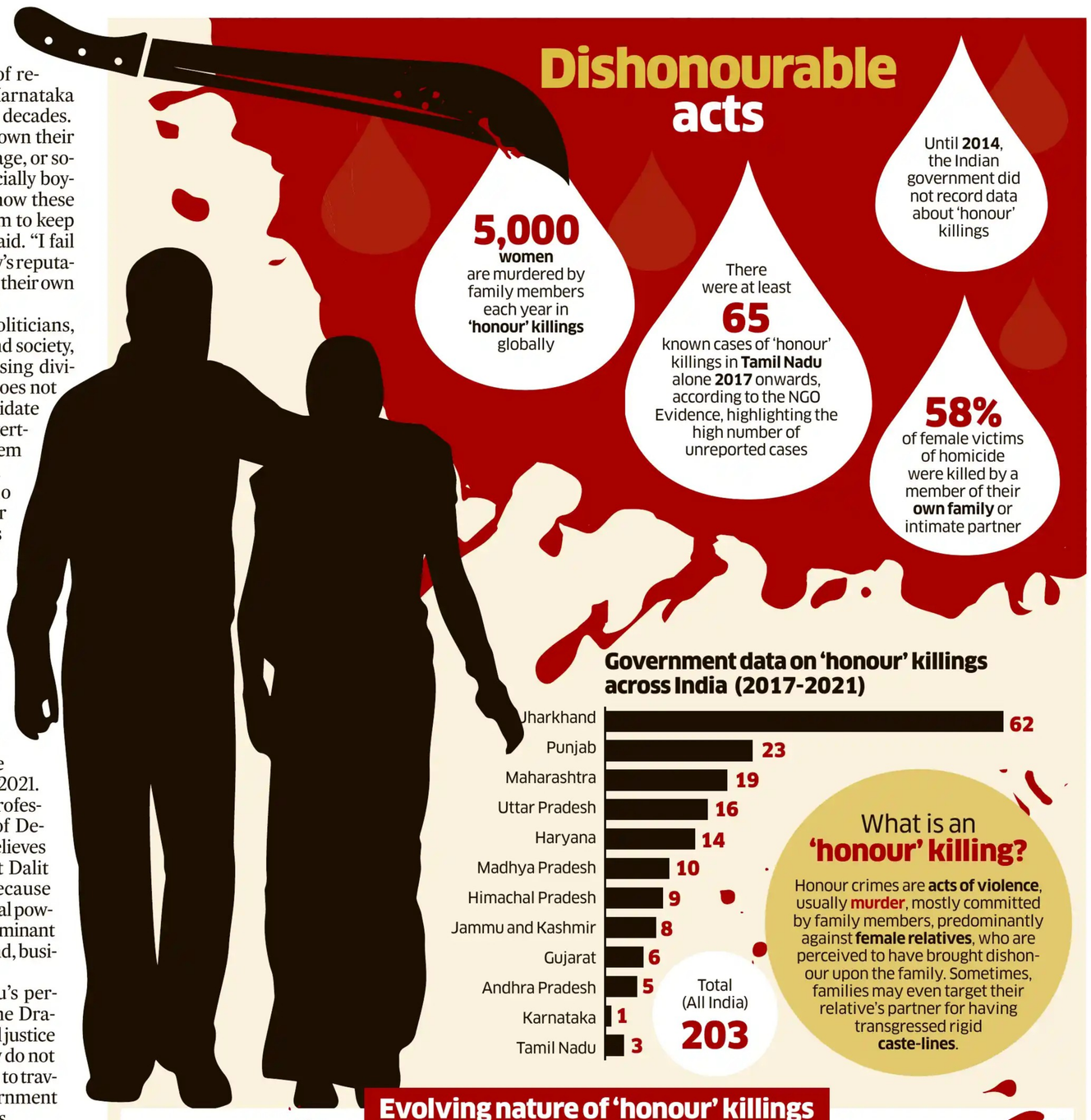
She suggested that one way to resist 'honour' killing is to celebrate inter-caste marriages involving persons from oppressed and oppressor castes.

Mohan also advocated for a separate law, saying that throughout history, oppressive practices like sati or child marriage were abolished only through specific legislation, coupled with increased awareness.

"A special law is essential not only to safeguard Dalits but to protect the entire Indian society. Anyone who obstructs or attacks love marriages and inter-caste unions must be held accountable under a dedicated legislation," he said. Though the necessary legal, social, and constitutional foundations are already in place, the political will and determination to enforce them are lacking, Mohan added.

Gowsalya says that besides a strict law, focusing on the youth and creating awareness among them is one of the measures that could help counter 'honour' killings. "The need of the hour is to plant seeds of equality in children from a very young age. Children and youth are our hope for change, and we should work among them," she added.

(With inputs from Pavan Kumar H in Hubbali, Arjun Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram, and S N V Sudir in Hyderabad)


Dishonourable acts
5,000 women are murdered by family members each year in 'honour' killings globally
There were at least 65 known cases of 'honour' killings in Tamil Nadu alone 2017 onwards, according to the NGO Evidence, highlighting the high number of unreported cases
Until 2014, the Indian government did not record data about 'honour' killings
58% of female victims of homicide were killed by a member of their own family or intimate partner
Government data on 'honour' killings across India (2017-2021)
Jharkhand 62
Punjab 23
Maharashtra 19
Uttar Pradesh 16
Haryana 14
Madhya Pradesh 10
Himachal Pradesh 9
Jammu and Kashmir 8
Gujarat 6
Andhra Pradesh 5
Karnataka 1
Tamil Nadu 3
Total (All India) 203
What is an 'honour' killing?
Honour crimes are acts of violence, usually murder, mostly committed by family members, predominantly against female relatives, who are perceived to have brought dishonour upon the family. Sometimes, families may even target their relative's partner for having transgressed rigid caste-lines.

Evolving nature of 'honour' killings

TAMIL NADU

Gokulraj (2015)

- 21-year-old Gokulraj, a Dalit youth, and Swathi, belonging to the dominant Gounder community, were seen talking to each other at Sri Arthanareeswarar Temple at Tiruchengode on June 23, 2015.
- Yuvaraj, founder of Theeran Chinnamalai Gounder Peravai, saw them talking and objected to their relationship. The next day, Gokulraj was found murdered.
- Yuvaraj was on the run for over 100 days before he dramatically surrendered before the police in October 2015. But he continued to release audio messages from his "hideout."
- This was probably the first time a caste organisation executed an 'honour' killing. Though he has been sentenced to life in prison, Yuvaraj gets a rousing reception from his community members whenever he comes out on parole.

Shankar (2016)

- Shankar, a Dalit youth from Udumalaipet in Tiruppur district, was hacked to death on March 13, 2016, eight months after his marriage to Gowsalya, belonging to the dominant Mukulathors.
- Shankar was killed in front of Gowsalya by a gang hired by her father, Chinnaswamy. Gowsalya, who attempted suicide after her husband's killing, turned into an activist.
- Except her father, who was acquitted by the Madras High Court, others are serving life imprisonment in the case

KERALA

Kevin Joseph (2018)

- Kevin Joseph, 23, a Dalit, was murdered by wife Neenu Cahcko's relatives in May 2018.
- The girl's family was opposed to the inter-caste marriage.
- Neenu's brother was among the ten imprisoned for life.

Aneesh (2020)

- Aneesh, 27, of Thenkurissi in Palakkad was murdered by his wife Haritha's father, Prabhu Kumar and his brother-in-law Suresh on December 26, 2020.
- In October 2024, the father and son were sentenced to life in prison
- Haritha's family was opposed to the relationship as Aneesh belonged to another caste.
- The incident happened within three months of their marriage.

TELANGANA

Vadlakonda Krishna (2023)

- Vadlakonda Krishna, a 32-year-old Dalit man in Suryapet district, married Bhargavi, a woman from the Backward Classes (BC) community, in 2023, despite fierce opposition from her family.
- Krishna was murdered by her family members -- her father Kotla Saidulu, brothers Kotla Naveen and Kotla Vamshee, and 65-year-old grandmother Buchamma.
- The investigation revealed that Buchamma had instigated her grandsons to commit the murder.

Source: Rajya Sabha unstarred question number 3734, United Nations Population Fund, Evidence NGO, news reports

COMPILED BY **VARSHA GOWDA** DH GRAPHIC: **GURU PRASATH R**

Law to curb 'honour' killings key

Gowsalya Shankar was just 19 years old when her husband, Shankar, was murdered in front of her by goons hired by her family. She hails from Piramalai Kallars, classified as Most Backward Class (MBC) in Tamil Nadu, while Shankar belonged to a Dalit community. In coversation with *DH's* **E T B Sivapriyan**, Gowsalya, now an anti-caste activist, speaks on 'honour' killings:

How did you overcome the trauma of Shankar's death?

I will not say that I have completely overcome Shankar's loss. The pain has been there, but I have learned to live with it. I have neither moved past Shankar's death nor avoided talking about him. Becoming an activist is a conscious choice I made because I do not want anyone else to go through the trauma I underwent. No one should experience what Shankar did.

There is a view that 'honour' killings should also be viewed as a gender issue since they affect women more...

It is true. Everything revolves around women, be it dowry or marriage. The problem starts when women choose their life partners. They are denied the right, but men are rarely questioned in the same way. Families do not accept even if a woman falls in love with a man from the same caste. The problem there is not the caste but the woman exercising her independence.

Do you think a separate law will prevent 'honour' killings?

Yes. Caste organisations have institutionalised such crimes by supporting the killers morally and financially. Initially, it was parents who hired goons for such murders. But the murder of Dalit youth Gokulraj changed the perspective. A leader of a caste organisation with no direct connection to the girl involved murdered the boy. A separate law will ensure that organisations that fund acts are also held accountable and included as culprits.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Sporting culture, from Page 1

Systematic approach key to unearth the sporting talent in the country

The pyramidal structure of sports governance is designed to, theoretically, serve two purposes: To give every Indian the chance to experience sport locally, and deserving athletes opportunities to progress upward through a unified structure in a sport — right up to national and international levels. Clear rules and governance standards are to be cascaded from top to bottom. This sports pyramid is envisioned as a self-sustaining, autonomous and, ideally, self-funded structure.

Unfortunately, much of the Indian sports pyramid has, historically, been shrouded in disorganisation. Systems development, legacy and impact have not always been prioritised. Except for the BCCI, every other national federation still relies heavily, and often exclusively on government funding.

Public hope

Despite these challenges, lying buried in the depths of the pyramid's vaults is public hope in the prospect of another life for Indian sport. Over the decades, the embers of optimism have been kept kindled by our hockey teams, by the likes of Abhinav Bindra, P V Sindhu and Neeraj Chopra, and a line of world-class cricketers.

Each of them reminds us that talent exists, at scale, waiting to be found. They give us reason to believe that, in our midst, are potential champions across sports disciplines, and help us imagine what might be unearthed through a systematic approach to sport.

Over the final quarter of the 20th century, an understanding grew, worldwide, that the autonomy of private sports federations was not absolute — that they needed to maintain healthy relationships with state actors and public accountability. Some countries passed laws, others issued codes of governance, and a few took the opportunity to exert greater governmental control over their national sports movements.

The Indian legal structure had some peculiar constraints. With 'sports' placed alongside 'entertainments and amusements' in the State List (instead of appearing in the Concurrent List), the Union government has long perceived itself to have limited competence to regulate sports.

Nonetheless, five decades ago, the government began issuing a series of administrative instructions on standards of good governance to national sports bodies. Eventually, the instructions were consolidated into the National Sports Development Code, 2011 (Sports Code). When the legality of the Sports Code was challenged, the courts held that the Union government could legitimately regulate national sports federations. However, in the politicised milieu of sports federations, the Sports Code has not been enforced either strictly or uniformly.

Eventually, the government's regulatory reluctance led to public interest litigation and interventions by the constitutional courts. Earlier this year, it was reported that about 770 cases relating to sports federations had reached the courts over the last decade, with about 200 of them being related to governance. Courts have tried to reform federations by making new rules and enforcing changes to the constitutions of these bodies. In multiple cases, the courts have also suggested that the governance standards in the Sports Code must cascade down to state and district levels. Just last week, the Supreme Court held that the principles of the All India Football Federation's new constitution were to extend to all its state association members.

Although there have been attempts for almost 15 years to bring in a national sports law, the legislature was the last of the three wings of government to act. Passed in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the National Sports Governance Act finally puts a formal institutional structure in place.

Sports regulation will be led by a National Sports Board. There will also be a National Sports Tribunal to arbitrate disputes and a Sports Election Panel to oversee free and fair elections in the sports bodies. Also envisaged by the Act are structures for athlete participation and representation in governance, and welfare and safeguarding measures.

One Act, many scenes

The first order of business is to put in place the regulatory structures envisaged by the Act and to identify those public-spirited individuals who will lead these institutions. Next, begins the unprecedented project of formally assembling the pyramid – with the National Sports Board tasked with keeping a register of every recognised sports body and all its affiliated units.

Then, the next regulatory imperative is to cascade good governance standards through this pyramid. Many attempts to upgrade governance by reforming only the top of the pyramid, that is, national sports federations, have faltered.

Fittingly, making the sports pyramid function to potential will need an effective triangular relationship — among national bodies, state governments and the state and district bodies. Under the Act, national sports bodies have supervisory obligations to hold their affiliated units to account, and each state government must also play its part by passing a state law that propagates the Act's standards and principles.

Once uniform standards are in place, we will have the opportunity to align the entire sports pyramid with our national goals.

Released just weeks before the law, the National Sports Policy 2025 laid out a vision for Indian sport — to play a central role in our nation's socio-economic progress. This will need a well-aligned ecosystem with clarity of roles and responsibilities for everyone.

Although the effect of the Act may not be seen immediately, its phased implementation could be a turning point. What it has in its favour is timing. It finds a country awakening to its own potential in sport, and sport's role in its future. The ambitions of hosting major sporting events have injected urgency. Private capital and philanthropy wait in the wings. The financial and reputational consequences of a low-trust ecosystem are apparent to all concerned.

Sustainable change happens when interests converge. Sometimes, it needs a catalyst. The Act opens a door. On the other side of that door lies a future in which every talented young Indian can start, stay in and succeed at sport. A future in which movement, play, sport and physical activity are woven into the fabric of our days.

(Nandan Kamath is a sports lawyer and non-profit leader based in Bengaluru)

GST
Bachat
Utsav
BACHAT UTSAV BRINGS CHEER & HAPPINESS TO MY FAMILY
FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY
1.5 TON AC IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹2,800
42-INCH TV IS CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹3,500
MONITOR, DISHWASHER AND POWER BANK BECOME MORE AFFORDABLE
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0025/2526

38 killed in stampede at actor Vijay's rally in Karur

16 women, 8 kids among victims; toll likely to rise as 58 in ICU

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tragedy struck actor-politician Vijay's overcrowded public rally in Karur on Saturday evening as at least 38 people, including 16 women and eight children, died after they collapsed at the venue due to a stampede.

The death toll is likely to rise further as about 58 people are being treated in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the Karur government hospital, and a few others have been rushed to private hospitals.

As people jostled with each other to catch a glimpse of their favourite star, chaos broke out at the venue — Light House roundtana — as Vijay started speaking from atop a specially designed bus for his election campaign. Eyewitnesses said several people, especially women and children, began fainting due to overcrowding, even as siren sounds of ambulances were heard from about 7.30 pm.

"Most of the victims were declared dead on arrival at the Karur hospital," Health Minister Ma Subramanian said. The likely cause of death is suffocation, as people waited for over four hours for Vijay to arrive from neighbouring Namakkal district and moved in one direction when his bus arrived at the venue.

A top source in the government told *DH* that the death toll was 38 at 11.30 pm and feared that it could go up further. Karur DMK MLA and former minister V Senthil Balaji said 58 people who attended the rally are currently receiving treatment.

Vijay did not visit the hospital or meet the injured and instead chose to fly back to Chennai. He posted a terse statement on his X page, four hours after the tragedy, to say that his "heart is shattered".

"I am writhing in pain and sorrow that cannot be described in words," Vijay, who avoided reporters at the Tiruchirapalli airport, added.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are among those who condoled the loss of lives.

Chief Minister M K Stalin, who is rushing to Tiruchirapalli on a chartered flight to reach Karur by road in the wee hours of Sunday to meet relatives of the victims, announced a solatium of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the dead and Rs 1 lakh each to the injured.

Stalin also held a high-level meeting with Chief Secretary N Muruganandam and senior officials to take stock of the situation. He also announced a judicial commission headed by former judge Aruna Jagadeesan to go into the incident.

The incident raised questions over the preparedness of the organisers and the district police in providing adequate security — Vijay's rallies in the past two Saturdays have been drawing huge crowds. Sources said the police did contact Vijay's team at around 6 pm and asked them to reach the venue as early as possible since the crowd was unmanageable.

While government sources blamed the organisers, saying they sought permission for the rally by projecting the expected crowds at only 10,000, Vijay's supporters pinned the blame on the police for not providing enough protection for the expected crowds.

Heart-rending scenes were witnessed at the Karur government hospital, with women wailing.

Children had also accompanied women to the public rally. Sources told *DH* that the turnout at the Karur rally could easily be over 50,000, and one saw only human heads as far as the eyes could see.

"We were all waiting for Vijay. The power went off, and since he was speaking through a faulty microphone, we all moved to the front to listen to him. That is also one of the reasons for the stampede," Sunitha, a resident of Karur, said.

▸ Stampede, Page 4B

An injured person being brought to a hospital after a stampede at TVK chief and actor Vijay's rally in Karur district in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. PTI

'People ran towards Vijay's bus'

Sunitha, one of the survivors said people waited for hours to see Vijay and hear him speak. "People didn't stand at one place, they kept chasing the bus in which Vijay was travelling. That is when they started pushing the other," she said.
Details on Page 8

STAMPEDE DEATHS THIS YEAR

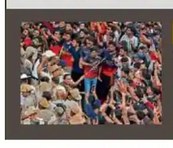
July 27
6 dead, 28 injured in stampede at Haridwar's Mansa Devi temple

Jun 29
Stampede kills 3 devotees near Puri's Gundicha Temple

May 3
Six killed in stampede during an annual festival of Sri Lairai Devi temple in Goa

Feb 15
18 people waiting to board the train to Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh die in stampede at New Delhi Railway Station

Jan 29
Thirty people were killed in a stampede at Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh



June 4 11 killed in stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru during an RCB victory parade

Jan 8
Six devotees were killed in a stampede in Tirumala Hills

State of B'luru roads irks CM; officials rapped

Reiterates Oct 31 deadline for potholes; flags waste issues

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday was unimpressed by the city's road condition and blamed rains for it as he went on an inspective drive that also resulted in the suspension of an engineer and notices to multiple officials over lapses.

"Due to heavy rains, potholes have increased in the city. It should've been dealt with early on but it wasn't done. But I have instructed them now. Within the given deadline, they have to fix it," he said, referring to the Oct 31 deadline set for filling the scores of potholes dotting the city's roads.

The CM, accompanied by officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the city police and Namma Metro, kicked off the city rounds near his official residence.

First-up was the waterlogging problem near ITC Windsor.

The CM instructed GBA officials to install a proper drainage system on Ballari Road and also ordered the roadwork along the junction be completed by Sunday morning.

Some of the other areas he visited included Panathur, Hennur-Bagalur and parts of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), which is notorious for traffic congestion and has been in news recently.

▸ CM, Page 4B

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during his city rounds on Saturday. PHOTO/CMO

Kickbacks 'doubled' under your govt: Contractors write to Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) has written to Chief Siddaramaiah that corruption in several departments under his government has "doubled" compared with the previous BJP regime.

The KSCA made the sensational charge in a September 25 letter, detailing corrupt practices taking place in the Congress government.

"When you were the leader of the Opposition, you told us that after you'd come to power, no commission (kickback) would be sought by your government to clear pending bills. We regret to inform you that the commission has doubled now compared with the previous government," the KSCA stated in the letter signed by its president R Manjunath and general secretary G M Ravindra.

Government institutions like Nirmiti Kendra and the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (KRIDL) award projects to the "followers" of elected representatives and party workers, the KSCA said.

"These followers and workers then hand over their projects to senior contractors in exchange for a cut. It's difficult for us senior contractors to ensure quality when works are sub-contracted to us like this," the letter said.

This is the first time the KSCA has, in writing, flagged corruption in the Congress regime. In 2021, it had written to the PM that contractors were forced to pay a cut to ministers and officials in the BJP regime in the state.

▸ Contractors, Page 4B

> When you were the leader of the Opposition, you told us that after you'd come to power, no commission (kickback) would be sought by your government to clear pending bills. We regret to inform you that the commission has doubled now compared with the previous government
>
> **Karnataka State Contractors Association**

Pak pleaded after destruction of air bases, India tells UN

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Pakistan "pleaded" for a ceasefire after several of its air bases were destroyed by India between May 9 and 10, New Delhi has told the United Nations General Assembly in New York, dismissing the claims of PM Shehbaz Sharif and US President Donald Trump.

India also reminded the international community that major international terrorist attacks over the decades were traced back to Pakistan.

Jaishankar

"...Countering terrorism is a particular priority because it synthesises bigotry, violence, intolerance and fear. India has confronted this challenge since its Independence, having a neighbour that is an epicentre of global terrorism," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at the 80th session of the UNGA on Saturday.

▸ India in UN, Page 4B

Superfast train soon between B'luru & Mumbai: Rail minister

In a video shared by Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said a dedicated superfast train would be introduced between Bengaluru and Mumbai.

P 4B

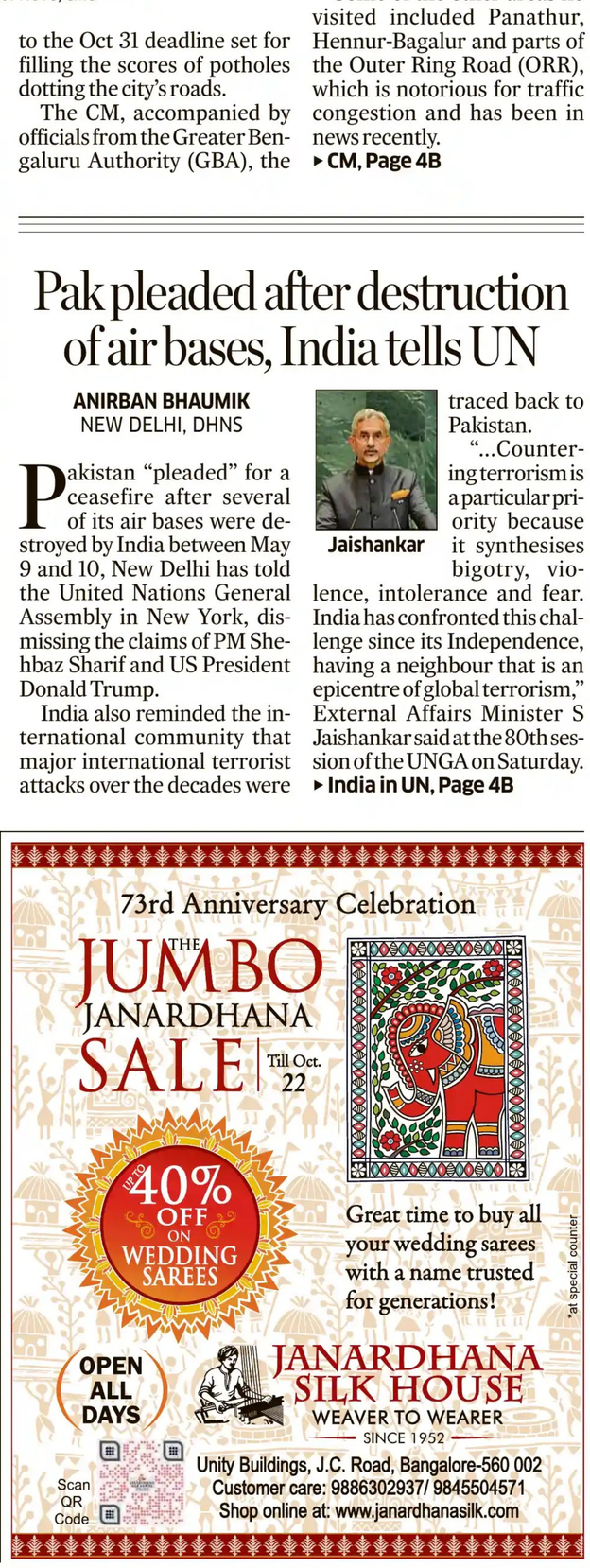
5 killed as car collides with divider on Delhi-Gurugram expressway

Five people were killed and a person was injured after their Thar SUV crashed into a divider on the Delhi-Gurugram expressway early Saturday. The incident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle and rammed the divider directly. While all six passengers were taken to hospital, five of them were declared 'brought dead'.

Kalyana K'taka flood situation grim as Maha dams release water

The flood situation in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir and Vijayapura districts worsened on Saturday with the release of 3.50 lakh cusecs of water from Maharashtra's Ujani and Sina reservoirs and with incessant rain lashing the region.

P 7


73rd Anniversary Celebration
THE JUMBO JANARDHANA SALE
Till Oct. 22
UP TO 40% OFF ON WEDDING SAREES
Great time to buy all your wedding sarees with a name trusted for generations!
*at special counter
OPEN ALL DAYS
JANARDHANA SILK HOUSE
WEAVER TO WEARER
SINCE 1952
Scan QR Code
Unity Buildings, J.C. Road, Bangalore-560 002
Customer care: 9886302937/ 9845504571
Shop online at: www.janardhanasilk.com

NEW TWIST

Wangchuk 'Pak links' being probed: Cops

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A fresh twist has emerged in the investigation against climate activist and Ladakh statehood campaigner Sonam Wangchuk, who was arrested on Friday for allegedly provoking this week's protests in Leh that turned violent, leaving four people dead.

Ladakh Director General of Police S D Singh Jamwal told reporters on Saturday that investigators were examining Wangchuk's past visits abroad, including Pakistan and Bangladesh, and his alleged contacts across the border. He claimed these links had cast a shadow on the activist's role in the agitation.

Wangchuk, known globally for his environmental work, was arrested on Friday under the National Security Act, that provides for long preventive detention without any scope for bail, on Friday and transferred to Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan.

"Recently, we arrested a Pakistani intelligence operative who had been in touch with Wangchuk and was sending information across the border. We also have evidence that he attended a Dawn media event in Pakistan. These aspects cannot be ignored," Jamwal said.

He alleged that Wangchuk's actions went beyond activism and could have been aimed at derailing the dialogue between Ladakh leaders and the Centre.

Jamwal added that "serious questions" were being asked about Wangchuk's travels and associations, including his participation in events in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Curfew relaxed first time after protests

Curfew was relaxed for the first time on Saturday in Leh, three days after violent protests demanding statehood for Ladakh and Sixth Schedule protections left four people dead.
Details on Page 9

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178
DS-MAX SKYSISIRA
SUPER-LUXURIOUS 2 & 3-BHK APARTMENTS | G+14 FLOORS
YELAHANKA
5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE
₹ 49.36 L* (1097 sq. ft)* | ₹ 61.57 L* (1310 sq. ft)*
DS MAX
Don't Let This Opportunity Slip Away
PRICE INCREASE ALERT!
OWN YOUR DREAM HOME - ACT NOW!
As of October 1st, 2025, Prices On All Our Projects Will Increase Due To Rising Costs.
2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244 TUMKUR ROAD G+9 10 MINS. MADAVARA METRO STN. ₹ 61.36 - 91.68 Lakhs*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 AIRPORT ROAD G+14 NAVARATHNA AGRAHARA ₹ 69.87 L - 1.18 Cr*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 SILKBOARD G+14 NR. SINGASANDRA METRO STN. ₹ 83.97 L - 1.31 Cr*
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 WHITEFIELD G+14 10 MINS HOPEFARM METRO STN. ₹ 60.84 L - 1.30 Cr*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 BANNERGHATTA RD G+14 NEAR KOPPA GATE ₹ 56.64 - 82.18 Lakhs*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 ELECTRONIC CITY G+4 10 MINS. HOSA ROAD METRO STN. ₹ 62.26 L - 1.24 Cr*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 SARJAPURA G+4 SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE RD ₹ 43.68 - 83.25 Lakhs*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 BANASHANKARI G+3 OPP. NPS SCHOOL (3 & 4-BHK) ₹ 1.19 - 2.17 Cr*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 MYSORE ROAD G+14 NR. CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN. ₹ 59.56 - 87.47 Lakhs*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 CHANDAPURA G+3 10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY ₹ 60.30 - 98.70 Lakhs*
Visit our Website or talk to our Advisors for the complete Portfolio.
FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION 7022 791 222
www.dsmaxproperties.com
Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in
*T & C Apply
CREDAI BENGALURU

WAITING IN WINGS AI-driven drones for intracity organ transfer soon

Tackling traffic to save lives: How city rethinks organ transport

CAITLIN LESTER
BENGALURU, DHNS

On September 11, Bengaluru witnessed a historic first when a live human heart was transported via the city's metro system.

The heart spent 20 minutes on the Green Line, travelling from Sparsh Hospital in Yeshwantpur to its recipient at Apollo Hospital, Sampige Road. This landmark event highlights the urgent need to rethink organ transport options in a city notorious for its traffic congestion, where 50-60 heart and lung transplants are taking place yearly.

These organs have viable ischemic times of just 4 and 6 hours, and must be delivered without delay.

The heart on the metro

Since mid-2023, changes to national metro rules and a Standard Operating Procedure from the Health Ministry have allowed - and required - Namma Metro to support human organ transport.

One further organ transfer has been conducted. On August 1, a liver was carried 31 km between Whitefield and RR Nagar in 55 minutes.

Namma Metro's Chief Public Relations Officer B L Yashavanth Chavan says the two transfers have gone smoothly.

He says Namma Metro has strict protocols to ensure a smooth, standardised operation.

Metro staff must prioritise the transfer, provide a security escort throughout, and define a secure path between the ambulance and the station.

The organs must be in an appropriate, labelled box, and handled only by hospital authorised staff.

The only cost is the basic metro fares for the medical staff accompanying the organ.

Using the metro saves "at least 50%" of the journey time, says Chavan.

At this point, there have been no further requests, he says, but Namma Metro would be "elated" to play a role in saving further lives.

Green corridor: The norm

Another mode of transport which cuts travel times is the green corridor.

Traffic police inspector Anil Kumar says the team involved in creating green corridors operates like a well-oiled machine - 56 have been created in Bengaluru so far this year.

The process is supported by ASTraM, a system that provides historical, predictive and real-time traffic data, along with the live locations of all ambulances in the city.

During a green corridor, all vehicles are halted so the main carriageway stays clear. The ambulance receives only green signals and "does not stop for even a second".

The average speed travelled on a green corridor is 59 km an hour, much faster than Bengaluru's reported 2024 average speed of 17.6 km/h. One 42-kilometer trip was completed in 25 minutes, at an average speed of 100.7 km/h.

Green corridors can cause bottlenecks in traffic, says Kumar, but the traffic police try to minimise the inconvenience.

"Any potential issues are perceived and resolved in advance," he says. "It's a humanitarian act, and we're proud of it."

Aero transport

A potential solution that soars above the city's congested streets is the use of helicopter ambulances.

Helicopter ambulances often move organs between cities, but a lack of helipads prevents intracity transfers, says Govind Nair, co-founder of Helitaxi, which has provided intercity organ airlifts since 2017.

There are a variety of hurdles involved in getting helipads approved, Nair says, which have led to some hospitals having unapproved and unusable helipads.

While currently, there are around four permanent helipads in Bengaluru and a further three or four temporary ones, Nair says that an ideal number would be closer to 30.

Victoria Hospital, located centrally, is currently building a helipad which will make organ airlift a more viable option throughout the city. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

But even with appropriate infrastructure, organ airlift will remain inaccessible to many due to the expense involved. A flight costs approximately Rs 3,300 per minute, says Nair.

A less expensive option is currently being co-developed by another air ambulance company.

Are drones the future?

ICATT Air Ambulance has completed over 50 intercity organ airlifts using both helicopter and aeroplane, says founder and director Shalini Nalwad.

However ICATT are betting on another mode of transport being the future of intracity organ transfer; they are collaborating with aerial mobility company Ubifly to develop drone-based delivery.

The technology is already "fully operational" and they have received the necessary civil aviation permissions, says Shalini.

She explains they have already completed a 3-kg test flight, and the complete pilot project of mock organ airlifts will be completed within six months.

The technology is AI-driven, says Shalini, and has integrated both clinical and aviation expertise to ensure maximum safety.

At a cost of Rs 4,000-5,000 per flight, the proposed service will be affordable in comparison with helicopter transport.

The doctor's view

Dr Devananda N S, cardiothoracic vascular and lung transplant surgeon, has seen organs arrive at his hospital via all current transport modes, each with pros and cons.

Green corridors are effective, Dr Devananda says, especially after hours, but have their shortcomings. "It's hard on both the police and the public."

"The advantage of metro use is great," he adds.

But for him, drones are the answer going forwards - "It would simplify many things."

"The important thing is that if people are willing to donate, the organ must not be wasted. Whatever has to be done to get it to a recipient must be done," says Dr Devananda.

Bengaluru witnessed a historic first when a live human heart was transported from Yeshwantpur to Malleswaram via the metro on September 11.

WhatsApp BDA grievances; chairman will meet you in 30 days

Initiative aimed at improving transparency

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to improve transparency and redress public grievances in a timely manner, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has introduced open house meetings.

Members of the public can raise long-pending grievances via a dedicated WhatsApp number, and the BDA will invite them for an open house meeting with the chairman within 30 days. The meeting will be live-streamed to ensure transparency in grievance redress.

Senior officials said the initiative followed government directives to improve transparency and accountability in the BDA.

"If you have a long-pending grievance with BDA, and if you are on the right side of the law, you can send a photocopy of your petition by WhatsApp. BDA invites you within 30 days for the Open House meeting chaired by the chairman and your grievance will be discussed threadbare and a final decision will be taken, unless legal complications are involved," BDA Commissioner Manivannan P wrote on X.

However, BDA site allottees are not confident about the move. A site allottee from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout called it "possibly an eyewash" and said "nothing fruitful would come out of it."

"Maybe, they will address smaller problems. But they already know about the bigger infrastructure problems. I don't think this will help address such core issues," said a site allottee, who did not want to be named.

However, another resident said it was still a step forward.

"It is difficult to get even a small amount of work done in the BDA. Even if this initiative can help address small grievances, it will be a big relief for site allottees," said a resident of Anjanapura.

The WhatsApp number for public to raise the grievances is 9483166622.

Man held for abusing female traffic cop, refusing breath test

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indiranagar police have arrested a man who allegedly abused and threatened a female police officer and refused to undergo a breathalyser test, officials said on Saturday.

The suspect is Aditya Agarwal, 29, a resident of Akshay Nagar, and a private firm employee.

Around 12.05 am on September 26, Agarwal, who was speeding in a Hyundai Verna, saw Kavitha D, a woman sub-inspector from the JB Nagar traffic station, leading the drunk and drive tests on Indiranagar 100 Feet Road. He stopped 20 metres before them and, without giving the car keys to a valet, entered the Vapour Pub. This was despite the police personnel screaming at him to stop and take the test, police said.

The suspect was then brought out of the pub after police personnel informed the bouncers and the management. When Kavitha asked him to blow into the device, Agarwal allegedly abused her, threatened her and even attempted to assault her, the FIR noted.

A video of the incident went viral on social media, where the suspect was screaming hysterically at the woman police officer, asking her "to speak in Hindi and English" as he didn't understand Kannada.

Subsequently, Hoysala patrolmen were called in, and Agarwal was taken to the Indiranagar police station for further proceedings.

He has been booked under BNS sections 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (criminal intimidation) and 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty). Further probe is underway.

BMRCL counters criticism, says fare hike set through statutory, independent process

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has countered concerns over its recent fare hike, maintaining that it was set through a statutory, independent process.

On Saturday, it gave a point-by-point response to concerns raised by mobility expert Satya Arikutharam in a *DH* article (Sept 27).

The average fare hike is 51.55% before discounts and 46.39% after discounts.

■ **105.15% is not fare hike:** 105.15% is not the fare hike but a percentage of increase that BMRCL calculated based on the movement in a composite cost index that tracks changes in key inputs since the 2017 revision. The index combines staff, energy, repair and maintenance costs. The Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) considers this index but does not mechanically adopt it. The actual hike averaged 51.55% before discounts and 46.39% after Sunday, holiday and off-peak discounts. The 105.15% is a basketed index, and comparing it directly with one component, like 39.6% rise in O&M cost, assumes they are the same metric. They are not.

■ **Depreciation claim:** The criticism that 66% of the hike was to fund depreciation is incorrect. The fare-revision methodology considers three cost heads only: staff, energy, and repair and maintenance. The formula adopted by the company indirectly also accounts for financing costs such as interest on loans and a limited provision for lifecycle renewals. This is not accounting "book depreciation" to recover past capital expenditure. Rather, it is a pragmatic provision to keep trains, track, power and signalling safe and reliable as assets age.

Renewal provisioning is a standard practice in metros worldwide. Without it, a system cannibalises itself, safety declines and commuters ultimately suffer. A composite index avoids cherry-picking single-year spikes or dips, giving a consistent and auditable basis for discussion.

■ **Like-for-like calculations:** Another allegation is that BMRCL divided 2016-17 costs, when 30.3 km was operational, by the 2017-18 network length of 42.3 km, thereby understating the base cost per kilometer. This is simply wrong. Each year's costs are divided by the operational length of that same year: 2016-17 costs by 30.3 km, 2017-18 by 42.3 km, and so on. The fact that the 2017 fare structure applied to the full Phase 1 network of 42.30 km does not alter this method.

■ **Moderation and recalibration:** Due to a reduction in fare zones from 29 to 10, some slabs initially saw sharper hikes. BMRCL capped the maximum increase at 71.43% and reworked over 600 fare combinations to smooth outcomes while retaining the FFC's averages.

■ **Energy costs — 25.38% vs 33.72%:** Why BMRCL shows a 33.72% increase while audited accounts show 25.38%? The answer lies in the basis of measurement. The 33.72% is based on the actual expenditure incurred per unit of electricity consumed in the year, including base tariff, surcharges such as FAC/PPAC, minimum demand charges and electricity duty. By contrast, the 25.38% is computed as energy cost per route kilometre, which uses a different denominator and is not a like-for-like comparison. In short, energy cost per km and energy cost per unit are different bases and should not be directly compared.

■ **Comparisons across metros:** Direct comparisons can be misleading. Fare structures differ by distance bands, service levels and operating costs. For context, Indore Metro has a fare of Rs 80 for over 18 km and a minimum of Rs 20 for 1-2 km. For DMRC, GoI provides the cost of security guards while BMRCL has to bear all the components of expenses.

■ **Choice of formula:** The use of a composite index formula is not unique to Bengaluru. It has its origins in the Delhi Metro's experience, where the board and the 4th FFC agreed that CPI alone does not capture the full rise in O&M costs. Metro cost structures differ fundamentally from household consumption: they are driven by wages, electricity and asset renewals. The formula, therefore, gives a more representative and auditable picture.

■ **Construction delays:** Delays in infrastructure projects are common due to land acquisition, utility shifting, tree-cutting permissions. While they affect the timing of revenues, they do not alter how fares are calculated.

■ **Foreign loans and hedging:** BMRCL's borrowings are raised under sovereign and state support, with terms cleared by the government of India and multilateral agencies. Hedging strategies are applied in line with Ministry of Finance norms and are a separate subject altogether. For fare revision, what matters is the actual loan-servicing cash outflow, which is transparently reflected in the cost data.

■ **Cost audits:** There is no statutory requirement for a cost audit under the Companies Act for BMRCL. However, all accounts are audited annually by the C&AG and published.

■ **Non-fare revenue:** BMRCL has been an early mover in non-fare revenue streams such as advertising rights, station naming rights, property development, kiosks and retail. These are growing steadily. That said, worldwide experience shows that fare box revenue must remain the backbone of metro sustainability; non-fare sources supplement but cannot fully replace it.

Three arrested for vandalising vehicles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three people have been arrested for allegedly vandalising over 20 vehicles in a coordinated attack across multiple localities in western Bengaluru, police said. The arrested are Jayanth, 19, Likith, 18, and Gagan, 23. While the two are from Byadarahalli, Gagan is from Kamakshipalya. Three other suspects were minors, police said.

The incident came to light on Thursday after owners found their vehicles damaged. CCTV camera footage discovered later showed several men wearing hooded sweatshirts, armed with clubs and lethal weapons, vandalising vehicles on Magadi Road and in Byadarahalli and Madanayakanahalli.

While the investigation continues, police sources said that as of now, the motive remained unclear and the vandalism was under intoxication. It wasn't immediately clear if the suspects were also under the influence of illicit drugs.

The police also suspect the same gang was likely behind a robbery on the Avalahalli-Doddaballapur Road after committing the vandalism.

They are now expected to take the suspects into custody and continue further interrogation. They are also verifying if any of the suspects have criminal antecedents.

Property row: Rowdy, kin booked for assault on woman, family

BENGALURU, DHNS: A rowdy and his family were booked for attacking a woman and her family after trespassing on their property and claiming it to be theirs in the Bengaluru South district, police said.

The incident occurred on Friday at Thayappanadoddi village under the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project in Bidadi. The attack occurred amid the presence of a police constable and surveyors.

Police said that surveyors were there to conduct a Joint Measurement Survey (JMC) on the land belonging to Sumithra and her mother-in-law.

The suspects, Mogappa, the rowdy, his father Kariyappa, also a man with a criminal past, his wife Deviramma and another man, Vishwanath, had attacked Sumithra and a few of her family members after claiming that the land was theirs when the surveyors arrived. Despite attempts by a police constable to pacify, there was no stopping the suspects.

Police have booked them under BNS sections 329 (criminal trespass), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 118, and 74 (assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty).

Car driver held for stabbing four over speeding

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KR Puram police have arrested a man who allegedly stabbed and injured four people who questioned him about speeding in his car.

Police said that the suspect, Santhosh, drove speedily near RR Layout around 8.30 pm on September 24 and parked it next to a drain.

Four people who had sat nearby questioned Santhosh over his driving. Angered, Santhosh allegedly attacked them with a knife and drove away.

The KR Puram police, who registered a case, traced him. They are now verifying his background to ascertain if he has any criminal record.

Dasara Utsava kicks off in Sahakaranagar, KBG says festival celebrated by all

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday said Dasara was not limited to one religion but was celebrated by people across castes and religions.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day Dasara Utsava and cultural programme organised in Sahakaranagar by volunteers and Congress workers of the Byatarayanapura assembly constituency in collaboration with *DH* and *Prajavani*.

Dasara, which is celebrated for nine days, is known as the Naada Habba (state festival), in Karnataka.

Krishna, who is Byatarayanapura MLA, said Dasara had the distinction of bringing people of all walks of life together.

A special puja was held on Saturday. Other programmes included Lalitha Sahasranama chanting, devotional singing, dance-drama on the nine avatars of Durga by Anuradha Vikrant's troupe from Drishti Art Center, and Dandiya dance by members of the Sahakaranagar Mahila Welfare Association.

As part of Dasara exhibition, over 50 varieties of products are being displayed and sold, including household items, clothes, clay pots, PoP dolls, artificial jewellery, decorative items, millets, organic products and snacks.

Social activist Meenakshi Sheshadri, Congress leaders N N Srinivasayya, M Jayagopal Gowda, N K Mahesh Kumar, V V Parthibarajan, V Hari, R M Srinivas, B S Gopalakrishna, Shanthamma, H A Shivakumar, Hanumanti, K Dileep Kumar, Ramashankar and others were present.

Cultural programmes are scheduled for Sunday. Local youth, women and Yakshagana troupes will perform dances. There will also be a Rasa Sanje (musical evening) and other music programmes.

To revive the tradition of displaying dolls during Dasara, gifts will be presented to households that arrange doll displays on Sunday.

Women offer puja to Chamundeshwari during the Dasara festival in Sahakaranagar on Saturday.

CM's visit sparks hopes of better ORR, triggers traffic snarls

Bad roads fixed overnight, residents call work shoddy

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah carried out a round of inspections across the city, covering areas like Hennur-Bagalur, Panathur and the Outer Ring Road (ORR), residents in and around these localities voiced their concerns regarding the impending infrastructural work.

They hoped the CM's visit would fast-track the "neglected" roadworks.

A few residents along Hennur-Bagalur Road claimed that a few patches of the road had been fixed haphazardly over the past 48 hours in anticipation of the CM's visit. Locals pointed out that while some potholes had been filled up with gravel, previously open drain holes had been covered up with leftover concrete blocks.

"There is not a single one on this road where one can peacefully travel without bumping around due to the sheer number of potholes, which are growing daily. The recent white-topping work, while it will be useful in the future, is only adding to the problem now," said Saritha T, a resident of Kothanur, hoping the CM takes serious action against officials responsible for maintaining the Hennur-Bagalur stretch. Additionally, the CM's visit caused several traffic jams along the route.

The residents of Iblur shared similar concerns.

Khushi, a 24-year-old engineer, recalled a recent incident where her friend was involved in a bike accident. "This happened on the main road, on the infamous ORR, where the road was so broken that it can't even be called a pothole anymore. My friend had an accident because he couldn't see the condition of the road due to waterlogging."

She feared the situation would only get worse in October as companies pull away from the hybrid model of working.

"My company has asked all employees to resume working from the office from next week, and so have my friend's companies. I can't imagine the kind of ruckus it's going to cause on the road. Already, we're at a point where the traffic is constantly bad, irrespective of whether it is peak hour or not," she added.

Speaking about the recent interaction between Wipro Chairman Azim Premji and the CM, where the former declined government access to divert traffic through the company's campus on Sarjapur Road, many locals believed the response was in bad faith.

"Limited traffic being allowed through the Wipro campus would greatly benefit in clearing up the Iblur junction. Currently, all the companies are stuck on the ORR because our entire ecosystem is here. Even if we want to, we can't leave. At a time like this, Premji could've set an example by lending a helping hand," said Jitesh, a 38-year-old IT professional.

A pothole-ridden road during the CM's city inspection.
PHOTO/CMO

701 potholes over 48-km area filled in past week: Central corporation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central Corporation said it has filled 701 potholes over 48 km over the past week, covering 31,783 square metres.

On Saturday, Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said steps have been taken to ensure pothole-free roads and that works were progressing swiftly.

"A detailed ward-wise list of roads has been prepared. Damaged and pothole-ridden roads have been identified and instructions have been given to engineering department officials to conduct regular review meetings and site inspections to carry out road repairs, including asphalting, patchwork and pothole-filling. As a result, the work is being actively executed to achieve pothole-free roads," he explained.

Suranjan Das Road, BEML Main Road, Old Madras Road, Richmond Road, Kamaraj Road, Hosur Road, MG Road, Chikka Bazaar Road, Palace Road in Vasanthnagar, Banjara Bhavan Road, Kumara Park East Road and the Mysuru Road flyover are among the major roads where pothole-filling was taken up over the last week.

Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's orders to fill potholes within a month, work is going on at a fast pace across the city. However, many citizens have raised concerns over the quality of work.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL:

Kalyana Karnataka Residents Educational and Cultural Association: Felicitation for meritorious students, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao to inaugurate, Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road, 10 30 am

Nagarabhavi Basava Balaga: Teachers' Day and Engineers Day celebration, talk by S Pinakapani, St Sophia School, Nagarabhavi, 6.30 pm

CULTURAL

Dhatu Creative: Dasara dolls exhibition, Mandala Cultural Centre, Kanakapura Road, 10.30 am

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: Dasara dolls exhibition, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Racecourse Road, 11 am

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

2025

WORLD NEWS DAY

28 September

This World News Day, we, the news media, reaffirm our commitment to you:

To report. To investigate. To analyse, explain, expose.
To provide clarity and insight, especially in unstable times.

TRUSTED MEDIA IS OF THE ESSENCE

A trusted newsroom is more than a source of news.
It is a civic partner, a watchdog, a mirror. As artificial intelligence scrambles our sense of what is real, we hold the line. Journalism has never mattered more.

Our foundational ideals guide us with rigour, clarity, and resolve. We are here to represent you, the audience, and use facts and discovery to improve lives.

This world is worth fighting for.

CHOOSE JOURNALISM - CHOOSE FACTS - CHOOSE TRUTH

Read • Watch • Listen • Subscribe • Register • Donate

worldnewsday.org

DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ | WAN-IFRA World Editors Forum | The Canadian Journalism Foundation La Fondation pour le journalisme canadien | PROJECT KONTINUUM | International Fund for Public Interest Media

Residents perform puja on a large pothole in Cox Town on Saturday.

Residents do 'puja', then fill up potholes in Cox Town

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bharathinagar Residents Forum, along with the residents of the Cox Town area, all came together on Saturday morning to hold a puja over one pothole of hundreds on their roads as a form of protest, before filling the potholes themselves.

The residents took things into their own hands by performing a "Homa" to the "pothole gods" in the hope that this would save them from injury and death.

Cox Town Main Road is a major hub connecting hospitals, schools, colleges and a cemetery.

Surendra Ravi, president, Bharathinagar Residents Forum, said: "Many pregnant women use that road to go to hospitals for check-ups and students to their educational institutions. The roads are so dangerous."

The area often sees a lot of accidents, with four major accidents in the past two months itself. "The potholes are filled half-heartedly, so debris is scattered on the roads, this later makes all vehicles, especially two-wheelers, to skid," he added.

After many years of neglect where the state of the road had gone from bad to worse, the residents took it upon themselves to fill the potholes with sand, stones and cement.

"We believe that god resides everywhere, even in a mere pothole, so before we filled them up we did puja for the safety of everyone who travels here," Surendra added.

The people took up the responsibility to fill the potholes after they had spotted police officers filling them up. "It is not their job to fix potholes, it's the civic body's job to do so, and since they did not, we did it as residents of the area," he said.

Experts bat for tech to reduce maternal mortality in state

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gynaecologists believe technology holds the key to reducing maternal mortality in the state.

At a conference on reducing maternal mortality in Karnataka organised by the Centre for Global Health and Development, School of Economics and Public Policy, RV University, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Public Administration, Karnataka Regional Branch, gynaecologists recommended integrating tech-driven solutions across the entire journey from preconception to postpartum to help eliminate risks associated with childbirth.

The experts identified four major problems resulting in maternal deaths in the state: delay in the recognition of the complications of the pregnancy, delay in transferring the patients to better care, delay at the referral center to take in the transferred patient and the strategies, and solutions that have been left unplanned.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "Our aim is to reduce the maternal mortality to 40 from 64 in the next two and a half years." Currently, Karnataka stands at number one in South India with 64 per 1,00,000 live births.

Speaking at the conference, Dr Shobha Sudarshan, Maternal Health and Family Welfare Officer, Greater Bengaluru Authority said that to raise awareness among youngsters, pre-conception and contraceptives are being discussed in schools under GBA.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with Light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.0°C
Minimum	20.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	61%
Sunset (Sept 28)	6:13 pm
Sunrise (Sept 29)	6:09 am
Moonrise	10:23 am
Moonset	9:53 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM No. 40/2025

Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 20255020 opening date on 25.09.2025 published in advertised tender notice no EPS/95/2025. The amendment made is as under: **Tender No. & short Description:** 20255020 Description IGBT BASED 3-PHASE DRIVE PROPULSION EQUIPMENTS., **Tender Opening date :** From - 25.09.2025 To- 10.10.2025, Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website **https://www.ireps. gov.in**

(Sd.)
Principal Chief Material Manager
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PM SHRI
पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय ए. एस. सी. केंद्र (दक्षिण) बेंगलूरु
पीएम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय ए. एस. सी. केंद्र (दक्षिण), बेंगलुरु
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA A.S.C. CENTRE (SOUTH), BENGALURU
No. 1, VICTORIA ROAD, BENGALURU 560047
Email: kvascbgr@gmail.com Website: https://ascbangalore.kvs.ac.in/ Phone No.: 080-25302862

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

on Thursday, October 9, 2025 for Contractual Teachers in the Vidyalaya

S. NO	POST	REGI STRATI ON TI ME
1	MISCELLANEOUS: COMPUTER INSTRUCTOR, SPECIAL EDUCATOR, ART AND CRAFT COACH,VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR, BAND INSTRUCTOR	09:30 AM To 12:30 PM

Note: For Qualifications and other details kindly visit the website https //:ascbangalore.kvs.ac.in

Principal

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।
रामगढ़ थाना के सामने, थाना चौक/गांधी चौक, रामगढ़ कैन्ट,
जिला–रामगढ़, झारखण्ड– 829122, ई-मेल–**eercdramgarh-jhr@nic.in**

" सूचना "

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़ अन्तर्गत एस०बी०डी० आधारित अति–अल्पकालीनई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रसंग संख्या–RCD/RAMGARH/905/2025-26 दिनांक–19.09.2025 का P.R. No.-362451 Road (25-26)_D द्वारा आमंत्रित अति अल्पकाली नई–निविदा में निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है:–

क्रमांक	विवरणी	पूर्व में आमंत्रित तिथि	संशोधन की तिथि
1.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	27.09.2025 10:30 बजे अपराह्न	07.10.2025 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
2.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	04.10.2025 12:00 बजे दिन तक	14.10.2025 12:00 बजे दिन तक

शेष यथावत रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल,
रामगढ़।

PR 363078 Road(25-26)D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/15 Dated: 22-09-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Modification of OHE due to shifting of points 63A & 63B with crossover with increase in length of 250m for RD-1 at HHL Yard.	Rs. 82,96,920.37

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru

PUB/510/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/140/2025 Dated: 19-09-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Maluguru (Chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda)) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and Existing Maluguru Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works) **(Tender Ref. No.: MLU-PALASAMUDRAM - EPC01-R2)**	Rs. 2,96,21,09,528/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 20-11-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/509/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)

E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-25-26-2025-2026 Dt: 19.09.2025.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to **14.00** hrs on **13.10.2025.**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1	T-SG-36-I-25-2025-2026	Provision of EOLB and Emergency Sliding Boom at Interlocked LC gates in VM-TPJ (Chord line) of TPJ Division.
2	T-SG-36-I-26-2025-2026	Provision of electronic based Train Signal Register (eTSR) at leftover stations over TPJ division.

Item No.	Advertised Value	Earnest Money Deposit Amt	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in months
1	₹1.31 Crores	₹2,15,900/-	60 Days	13.10.2025 @ 14:00 Hrs	9 Months
2	₹604.65 Lakhs	₹4,52,300/-	60 Days	13.10.2025 @ 14:00 Hrs	6 Months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.

The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in/**

GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI

Sr. Divisional Signal Telecommitunication Engineer, DRM Office complex, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001.TamilNadu.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No. 31 UBL 2025-26 Dated: 19-09-2025

Sl.	Name of Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :-** Proposed extension of compound wall, construction of 10m height firing range protection wall, cadets vehicles and trucks parking shed, laying of road from Armoury building to west gate and diversion road from west gate at RPF reserve lines at Hubballi. (Maintenance period 6 Months).	Rs. 2,34,00,851/-
2	**Hubballi Division :-** Maintenance of Track in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Central/Hubballi jurisdiction in Hubballi-Gadag UP and DN lines in Gadag-Badami UP & DN lines including Gadag By pass, Karajgi-South Hubballi (KJG-SUBL) UP & DN lines for a period of One year.	Rs. 8,81,66,176/-
3	**Hubballi Division :-** Londa - Vasco-Da-Gam, Proposed replacement of the Foot Over Bridge (CLR-54A) at Km. 24/300-400 at Castlerock (CLR) yard in Londa- Vasco-Da-Gama Section.	Rs. 3,99,50,329/-
4	**Hubballi Division : -** Proposed short shunting neck in Castlerock (CLR) yard at Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) end.	Rs. 4,77,91,279/-
5	**Hubballi Division-** Proposed Construction of Station Building (including SM Room, IPS Room, Maintenance Room, etc,) at 03 Stations (Caranzol, Dudhsagar and Sonalium Stations.)	Rs. 2,39,11,476/-
6	**Hubballi Division-** Proposed construction of store rooms of size 5x10mts at SSE/E/G maintenance at Hosapete.	Rs. 18,49,121/-
7	**Hubballi Division-** Supply of ballast at Wandal Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer/Central/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,21,08,249/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 17-10-2025**

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No. 32 UBL 2025-26 Dated: 24-09-2025

Sl.	Name of Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :-:** Proposed additional 02 loop lines at Navalur (NVU) Station	Rs. 11,51,09,795/-
2	**Hubballi Division-** Supply of ballast at Kalem Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer /West/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,94,54,869/-
3	**Hubballi Division-** Supply of ballast at Londa Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer /West/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 6,98,83,305/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/512/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

JUIDCO Visionary Urban Development

CORRIGENDUM - 1

Name of Work: Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years
Ref PR No.: 362608
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_105060_1
NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/CMP/JSR DHN/2025 – 664
Corrigendum – 1 for the tender "Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years" has been published on the Government of Jharkhand's e-procurement website.
All bidders are requested to review it before submitting their bids.

Sd/-
(B K Roy)
Project Director (Technical)

PR 363092 Urban Development(25-26).D

Fee cut revives hopes for core branches in govt engg colleges

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government's move to reduce fees for some of the core branches at government engineering colleges seems to have clicked, with colleges witnessing decent increase in admissions this year.

This year, to attract students to core branches like Civil, Mechanical, Automobiles, Silk Technology and Textiles, the department of higher education announced a 50% fee waiver at government-run colleges.

This year, while the annual fee for other engineering streams at government engineering colleges was Rs 44,950, it was reduced to Rs 28,450 for core subjects. There are a total of 17 government engineering colleges in the state.

As per data available from Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), automobiles branch witnessed an increase in admissions from previous year's 27% to 40% this time.

However, civil engineering has seen just 1% increase with 52% as against 51% recorded during 2024. The mechanical engineering stream recorded 2% increase at 35% this year.

Silk technology and textiles have seen a steep increase in admissions, finishing at 60% and 70%, respectively. In 2024, silk technology had recorded 40%, while the figure was 44% for textiles. "Though this seems less, we feel it is a positive response from students. Compared to previous years, the admissions to core branches have increased at govt colleges this year, even 1% is a matter of consideration," said Prasanna H, executive director of KEA.

38 killed in stampede at actor Vijay's rally in Karur

Stampede, from Page 3

The tragedy occurred despite the police imposing over 20 conditions on the organisers as huge crowds have been thronging Vijay's public rallies.

Moving swiftly, the state government rushed Subramanian from Chennai and School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi from Tiruchirapalli to Karur to monitor the situation. Stalin also ordered collectors from neighbouring Tiruchirapalli and Namakkal to rush to Karur to help the district administration provide help to the injured.

ADGP (Law and Order) Davidson Devaasirvatham said about 400 more policemen are being rushed to Karur to handle the situation. "We already have about 500 people," he said.

Rly work in Kali Tiger Reserve: Panel set up to assess impact

5,413 trees have been marked for felling for the project

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite opposition from the field officers, the State Board of Wildlife has decided to set up a technical team to assess the impact of a proposal to double a railway line passing through the thick jungles of the Castle Rock wildlife range in the Kali Tiger Reserve.

The work involving diversion of 25 acres of forest, is part of the Hosapete-Vasco doubling project, and has been proposed by the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to boost connectivity to the port in Goa. Within the reserve limits, a total of 5,413 trees have been marked for felling to make way for the doubling project.

The proposal was discussed in the third meeting of the standing committee of the State Board of Wildlife chaired by Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre. The doubling has seen vehement opposition from conservationists who have pointed out various contradictions.

For instance, while the Wildlife Institute of India took up study to assess the impact of the project on wildlife, the terms of study were set by RVNL. The deputy conservator of Forests and director of Kali Tiger Reserve, who inspected the site of the proposed work, had suggested the rejection of the proposal. Noting that the site is located in a biodiversity-rich and highly sensitive zone of Western Ghats, he stated: "The area is highly prone to landslides, and incidents of landslides have been reported in the past years along the existing railway tracks," the report said.

An undated photograph shows a large snake, suspected to be a King Cobra, killed by the train movement on Castlerock-Tinaighat section of the Hosapete-Vasco line.

The committee took note of the fact that the state forest department has expressed concerns about the existing railway lines causing death of wildlife. "Although these incidents had been previously reported to the railway authorities, no remedial action has been taken by them," the minutes of the meeting said.

Member secretary of the standing committee and Chief Wildlife Warden P C Ray, urged the formation of a technical committee to assess the adequacy and efficacy of the project. "The technical committee shall conduct site inspection and study mitigation plans proposed by the Wildlife Institute of India and give its report," the standing committee decided.

Among five issues the committee set to study are the exploration of ways to reduce felling of trees, assess adverse impact on wildlife, consider traffic projections and consider the response of the government of Goa since a part of the project falls in the jurisdiction of the neighbouring state.

Activist Giridhar Kulkarni said the project goes against the government's effort to create inviolate areas.

"The state government has already relocated more than 600 families from Kali Tiger Reserve, including 58 families from the Castle Rock Range, claiming success in creating inviolate spaces for tigers. These forest dwellers were denied even basic facilities such as roads, electricity, bridges, and mobile towers on the grounds that strict provisions of forest and wildlife laws prohibited any form of development inside the Reserve. Yet, in complete contradiction, the Standing Committee has now constituted a Technical Committee to consider the doubling of the Tinaighat–Castle Rock–Caranjol railway line inside the very same Tiger Reserve, despite strong objections from the DCF of Kali Tiger Reserve," he said.

He said the mega infrastructure project requiring the feeling of over 5,000 trees was being advanced under the guise of mitigation measures. Such moves, he said, expose the glaring double standards in forest governance, where stringent laws are used to relocate marginalised communities but bent to accommodate ecologically destructive projects.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 29.10.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** Replacement of Passenger Announcement System (PAS) and Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) in Blue line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 16,13,67,145/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 9,56,800/-. **Cost of Tender Document :** ₹ 0.00. **Completion Period :** 9 months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Open Tender Notice No. S&T/Work/08-2024-R1

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Mahathma Gandhi NREGA Section.

No: CEO/ZP/CTA/Tender/2025-26 Dated: 24-09-2025.

Tender Notification
Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited under Mahathma Gandhi Narega Scheme to provide outsource man power service, in two cover system. Elegible tender may obtain the details and Tender documents submitted the field tender online through website, http://kppp. karnataka.gov.in. Tender details are as follows: **(1)** Tender No.RDPR/2025-26/SE3024 **(2)**Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal 24-09-2025 11.00 am **(3)** Pre-Bid Meeting Date. Time & Place:-29-09-2025 at 11.00 am in the office of the Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga. **(4)** Last Date for receiving pre-bid queries Date: 06-10-2025 Before 3 pm **(5)** Last Date for submission of Proposals in e portal 23-10-2025 up to 5.00 pm **(6)** Opening of Technical Bids in the e portal 27-10-2025 at 11.00 am **(7)** Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders 07-11-2025 at 11.00 am **(8)** EMD Amount 9,08,000/-

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/394/2025-26

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Z.P., Chitradurga District

BMCRI SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL (PMSSY)
Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone / Fax: 080 - 26705883
E-mail: pmssysshospital@gmail.com, Website: www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in

Date: 27-09-2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited through e-Procurement Portal for **Tender Document for Supply for Endoscopy Equipment for Surgical Gastroenterology Department** notifications to **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	BMCRI/SSH/SUP/TEND-07/2024-25	Tender Document for Supply for Endoscopy Equipment for Surgical Gastroenterology Department

Schedule: ➢ Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **26-09-2025.** ➢ Last Date for Tenders Queries: **03-10-2025.** ➢ Tender Pre-Bid Meeting on: **03-10-2025.** ➢ Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **10-10-2025.** ➢ Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **12-10-2025.**
Tender details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPPP mode Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact **Special Officer, BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-26981928 / 26705883,** E-mail: **pmssysshospital@gmail.com**, Website: **www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Special Officer
DIPR/CP/3026/Adverto/2025-26 **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:Nidagundi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2025-26/1684 Dated:24.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Item Rate & Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** – (1) I .No. 2444/Call-2 (ST) - 70.83 Lakhs, (2) I .No. 2546 (others) – 135.22 Lakhs (3) I .No. 2541 (others) – 191.41 Lakhs (4) I .No. 2462 (others) – 67.51 Lakhs (5) I .No. 2463 (others) – 50.70 Lakhs &(5) I .No. 2553 (others) – 127.07 Lakhs **Single Cover -** work indents of (1) I .No. 2401/Call-2 (OTHERS)- 12.66 Lakhs (2) I .No. 2585 (OTHERS)- 8.57 Lakhs (3) I .No. 2460 (OTHERS) – 20.23 Lakhs (4) 2466/Call-3 (Others)- 3.94Lakhs **Closure & Special repair work package indents- Single Cover** (1) I .No. 2408/Call-2 (OTHERS)- 9.41 Lakhs (2) I .No. 2407/Call-2 (OTHERS)- 14.11 Lakhs (3) I .No. 2404 /Call-2 (OTHERS)- 6.65 Lakhs (4) I .No. 2409/Call-2 (SC)- 6.73 Lakhs (5) I .No. 2411/Call-2 (OTHERS)- 10.73 Lakhs (6) I .No. 2406/Call-2 (OTHERS)- 13.19 Lakhs, **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 26.09.2025 to 10.10.2025 up to 5-00 PM. Cover-I (Technical & Financial) Bid will be opened on 14.10.2025 at 11-00AM for Single covers & For Two Covers Technical Bid will be opened on Dt: 14.10.2025 & Financial Bid Opened on Dt: 17.10.2025** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/366/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

Superfast train soon between B'luru & Mumbai: Rail minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said a dedicated superfast train would soon be introduced between Bengaluru and Mumbai to fulfill a long-pending demand.

In a video shared by Bangalore South MP, L S Tejasvi Surya, on social media, Vaishnaw said the railways had increased train-handling capacity in Bengaluru and Mumbai.

"We have capacity in both cities and will start a superfast train soon," he noted.

Surya said that the demand for a superfast train between the two cities had been pending for 30 years.

Currently, there is only one dedicated train — Udyan Express — and it takes a lot of time, he added.

"In 2023 and 2024, 23 lakh air passengers travelled between the two cities. A dedicated superfast train will give people an affordable option," he noted.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru, acknowledged high demand for more trains from the city to Mumbai, Rajasthan, Delhi, Patna and East India. "We've been trying hard to meet this demand. We are hopeful that more trains will be introduced soon," he told *DH*.

According to Singh, dedicated trains have recently been introduced from Bengaluru to Rishikesh and Gwalior, while the one to Patna runs daily.

"We also run many Trains on Demand (TOD), which are regularised when necessary. During Dasara and other festivals this year, we're running 86 trains this year, more than double last year's 42," he said.

The superfast train is unlikely to be a Vande Bharat Sleeper, which is still months away from hitting the tracks.

Sources say the train may run via Hubballi to reduce travel time to under 20 hours.

The Udyan Express, which runs via Guntakal and Kalaburagi, takes 23 hours and 35 minutes from Bengaluru to Mumbai, and 21 hours and 50 minutes in the return direction. It always runs packed, and passengers have to book well in advance to get confirmed seats.

HC quotes Manusmriti, Gandhi to deny bail to rape accomplice

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court cited a verse from Manusmriti and quoted Mahatma Gandhi while denying bail earlier this month to a man accused in a rape case.

"...it is relevant at this point of time to quote a sloka of Manusmriti that says, 'yatra naryastu pujyante ramante tatra devata, yatraitaastu na pujyante sarvaastatrafalaah kriyaah,' which means that where women are honoured, divinity blossoms there, and where women are dishonoured, all actions, no matter how noble, remain unfruitful," Justice S Rachaiah said while hearing the bail petition on September 4.

He said it was also relevant to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi on "freedom". "The day a woman can walk freely on the road at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence," Justice Rachaiah said.

The petition was filed by a resident of Mulbagal town in Kolar district, after a special court rejected his bail application. He is accused number 2 in the rape case. The alleged incident happened on April 2, 2025.

The survivor, 19-years-old and belonging to a Scheduled Tribes community, is a native of Banka in Bihar and her parents work in a cardamom estate in Kerala.

She arrived in Bengaluru and got down at the KR Puram railway station around 1.30 am on April 2. While she was going towards Mahadevapura with her cousin to have food, the accused (petitioner in the bail plea) and another man accosted and assaulted them. One of them took her to a nearby place and raped her.

When she cried for help, some people gathered at the scene of crime. While the main accused managed to escape, accused number 2 was apprehended.

The police registered a case for offences punishable under sections 115(2), 126(2), 351(2), 351(3), 352, 64 r/w sections 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and under sections 3(1)(r), 3(1)(w)(i)(ii), 3(2)(v) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The petitioner claimed that he was falsely implicated in the case, saying he only held the victim's cousin and did not commit rape. The government advocate countered this, pointing out that accused number 2 had held and threatened the victim's cousin, thereby facilitating accused number 1 to rape the girl.

Carnatic music concert

BENGALURU, DHNS: Musicians' Collective will present a carnatic classical music concert by Anagha Yoganand on vocal, J K Sridhar on violin, Bhargava Simhadri on mrudanga and Harish Chandra on khanjira at 10 am on Sunday at Arohy Shaale building, 95, 41st Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560070.

Pak pleaded after destruction of air bases, India tells UN

India in UN, from Page 3

A day after Sharif called the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam "a human tragedy" and accused New Delhi of seeking to extract political gains out of it, Jaishankar referred to the "murder of innocent tourists" as "the most recent example of cross-border barbarism". "India exercised its right to defend its people against terrorism and brought its organisers and perpetrators to justice," he said.

Jaishankar further said that since terrorism is a shared threat, it is essential that there is much deeper international cooperation. "When nations openly declare terrorism a state policy, when terror hubs operate on an industrial scale, and when terrorists are publicly glorified, then such actions must be unequivocally condemned."

Earlier, a few hours after Sharif claimed victory for Pakistan in its May 7-10 military flare-up with India, New Delhi deployed one of its young diplomats, Petal Gahlot, to exercise its right to reply.

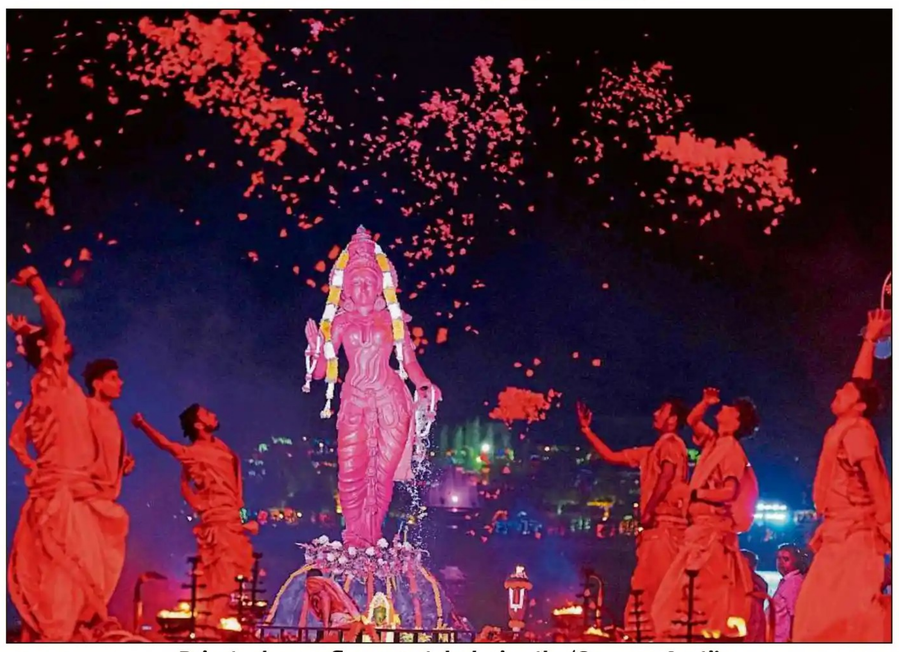
"If destroyed runways and burnt-out hangars look like victory, as the prime minister claimed, Pakistan is welcome to enjoy it," Gahlot, a first secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, said, refuting the claims of Sharif.

Gahlot told the UNGA that Sharif had advanced a bizarre account of the recent conflict with India. "The record on this matter is clear. Till May 9, Pakistan was threatening more attacks on India. But on May 10, its military pleaded with us directly for a cessation to the fighting, she said, adding: "The intervening event was the destruction caused to multiple Pakistani airbases by Indian forces. The pictures of that damage are, of course, publicly accessible."

Gahlot, who joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2015, accused Sharif not only of resorting to theatrics at the UNGA, but also of glorifying terrorism, which, she alleged, was central to the foreign policy of Islamabad.

Her comment that Pakistan had directly pleaded with India for a ceasefire on May 10 was a tacit rejection of Trump's oft-repeated claim that he had brokered the truce between the two South Asian neighbours.

CELEBRATING CAUVERY



Priests shower flower petals during the 'Cauvery Aarti' at Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Mandya district on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

State of roads irks CM, officials rapped

CM, from Page 3

Inspecting the ongoing white-topping work along the Hennur-Bagalur stretch, he reiterated that contractors should bear the responsibility for potholes on roads selected for white-topping.

"Once the road is handed over for white-topping, the BBMP will not pay for the maintenance of those roads. We are spending Rs 13 crore per km for the white-topping. I have instructed the contractor to wrap up the roadwork within 30 days and ensure the road is in perfect motorable condition," he said.

Irked by the shoddy road work in the area, the CM proceeded to suspend the executive engineer of the Hennur-Bagalur division for negligence. "The engineer has filled the potholes with gravel instead of using tar," said Siddaramaiah. At several places, the CM spotted and halted at blackspots covered in garbage and debris.

At Ward No 23, the CM was triggered by the fact that the garbage was spilling out of the waste collection centre, in addition to gravel lying on the asphalt that could potentially lead to accidents. The CM proceeded to issue a formal notice to those in charge of operations on these premises.

The CM's eagle-eyed approach continued on Ballari Road (750 metres from Windsor Manor Circle), as the entourage moved at a snail's pace to ensure he had the vantage point.

In one such instance, he noticed that construction waste had been dumped in an area where CCTV cameras were "suspiciously" absent. The CM told officials to find out who dumped the waste in the area and asked them to impound their vehicles and register a case. He insisted that CCTV cameras be installed in Panathur, where waste management was not up to the mark.

During the inspection, Siddaramaiah was also informed of the BMRCL's lack of initiative to clean up after finishing the Namma Metro work, and how they have damaged the white-topping on the road.

The CM also reiterated that service roads should not be neglected during the metro work.

Commission doubled in your govt: Contractors' body writes to CM

Contractors, from Page 3

This gave birth to the viral '40% commission' allegation, which helped the Congress push the saffron party to a corner and win the 2023 Assembly polls.

"We'd like to bring to your notice that it was our fight against corruption that played some role in your government coming to power," the KSCA stated in the letter to Siddaramaiah.

Contractors have been pursuing the Congress government for pending bills worth Rs 32,000 crore. "You've been giving us assurances and directing officials to act. We've been patient with the hope that you would solve our problem," the letter stated. "But until now, we have had no benefit from your government."

According to the KSCA, departments are not following seniority when it comes to clearing pending bills. "Instead, they're deploying their own formula to give special lines of credit (LOC) to contractors, and only 15-20% of the pending bill amount is being cleared once in three months," the letter stated.

The KSCA has also accused the departments of municipal administration, urban development and labour of corrupt tender practices. "Officials are exceeding their brief by converting tenders into packages so that they are awarded to powerful contractors of their choice," the association stated, adding that the ministers concerned are not doing anything to stop it.

MOVING THE GOALPOSTS | Continuation of power feud between Siddu & DKS

Socio-edu survey: Challenges, compulsions and politics

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's second attempt in 10 years to conduct a Social and Educational Survey (popularly known as caste census) has yet again sparked off an intense debate in the state amid concerns of feasibility.

Over the decades, all surveys and reports by backward classes commissions have been sensitive, with the potential to alter the political dynamics of the state, which has for long witnessed the hegemony of the 'dominant' Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities.

The present exercise has been no exception, with controversies erupting over certain Christian sub-groups containing Hindu caste names, which was settled by "hiding" those names. The dominant communities have also moved the High Court, challenging the survey.

Though the High Court's decision to not stay the ongoing survey has come as a respite for the government, the task ahead is unenviable.

The survey, which started on September 22 and is slated to end October 7, intends to enumerate 1.43 crore families through 1.2 lakh surveyors. By Saturday afternoon, 9.54 lakh households had been covered. With Siddaramaiah ruling out an extension, covering the remaining 1.3 crore-odd houses in merely 10 days will be an uphill task.

An enumerator uploads data on the app during the social and educational survey at Karwar in Uttara Kannada district.

> After the earlier report was rejected, Siddaramaiah is upset. But, hurriedly carrying out another survey without proper preparation will damage the government's reputation further. After the opposition from the dominant castes, it would've been prudent for Siddaramaiah to create a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Shivakumar and comprising members from dominant castes as well as OBCs and SC/STs and hand over the responsibilities of the survey to that sub-committee.
>
> Source close to **Siddaramaiah**

Background

The 'dominant' communities have opposed reports by successive commissions, including those by the Naganagouda (1960-61), Havanur (1975) and Venkataswamy commissions (1986).

This June, the government set aside the Jayaprakash Hegde Commission's report based on the survey conducted by the H Kantharaj Commission in 2015.

The Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities had accused the survey of being "unscientific" and "undercounting" their numbers.

As per the report, which surveyed 5.98 crore people, the Scheduled Castes were found to be the largest group (1.09 crore and 18% of the state's population), followed by Muslims (75.25 lakh and 12%), Lingayats (66.35 lakh and 11%) and Vokkaligas (61.58 lakh and 10%).

While the government said it was setting aside the report since it was 10 years old, a senior Congress leader, speaking to *DH* on the condition of anonymity, conceded that the major reason for setting aside the report had been the pressure from the dominant communities within the party.

Faster than Centre?

What are the political compulsions behind the government's decision to finish the exercise soon?

For Siddaramaiah - known as an Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) leader - the survey has been a pet project.

The Union government's decision to enumerate castes alongside the upcoming decadal survey has put more pressure on the Congress to conduct another survey earlier, especially since top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been the most vociferous proponent of the caste surveys.

"The pressure to implement it faster than the Union government is certainly working on the government," said a source close to Siddaramaiah.

The sense of urgency with the survey also comes in the wake of speculation surrounding Siddaramaiah's tenure.

Power struggle?

The survey has been a continuation of the power feud between Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar. With Siddaramaiah being a Kuruba (OBC community) and Shivakumar hailing from the Vokkaliga community, the entire debate over the issue also has the leadership angle.

While the decision to scrap the Hegde commission report was analysed as a setback for Siddaramaiah, it was widely seen as a victory for Shivakumar. The backward commission now has Lingayat and Vokkaliaga members, a first in history. Even this has been read as a victory for Shivakumar.

"After the earlier report was rejected, Siddaramaiah is upset. But, hurriedly carrying out another survey without proper preparation will damage the government's reputation further. After the opposition from the dominant castes, it would've been prudent for Siddaramaiah to create a Cabinet sub-committee headed by Shivakumar and comprising members from dominant castes as well as OBCs and SC/STs and hand over the responsibilities of the survey to that sub-committee.," the source close to Siddaramaiah added.

The source's contention was that even Congressmen from dominant communities cannot oppose it openly, since it's a dream project of Rahul Gandhi.

Step towards 75% quota?

The Hegde commission report had recommended hiking the reservation for OBCs to 51% from the current 32%, which would have taken the overall reservations to 75%. The SCs have 17% and STs 7%.

It's likely that demands for increasing the reservation will again resurface. As per the Supreme Court's ruling in the Indra Sawhney case, reservations cannot exceed 50%. However, states like Tamil Nadu (69%) and Jharkhand (77%) have got higher reservation shares by including it in the 9th schedule of the Constitution. Increasing reservations up to 75% has been one of Rahul Gandhi's main objectives.

In Karnataka, there are 56% reservations currently but hasn't been challenged in the courts yet. The developments over the next 10 days and the survey's progress will be very crucial for the Congress, and particularly for Siddaramaiah.

Tejasvi Surya asks citizens to boycott 'Siddaramaiah census'

'CM pitting one caste against another'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Saturday announced that he will not participate in the Social and Educational Survey and urged citizens to boycott the exercise.

The survey, also known as the caste census, started on September 22 and is scheduled to end on October 7.

"I am not participating in this. Will this government keep my data safe? For what purpose will this data be used, and with what political malintent? I don't trust this government," Surya, a Brahmin, said.

"This caste census is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's attempt to become a Lalu Prasad Yadav or Mulayam Singh Yadav of Karnataka. He wants to pit one caste against another," Surya charged.

Surya recalled that the High Court on Thursday made it clear that it was not compulsory for citizens to participate in the survey.

Tejasvi Surya, Bangalore South MP

"When the High Court has made it clear that citizens needn't participate, I appeal to people...this so-called survey is being done just for political mileage. This (survey) won't help any caste or the poor. So, please, boycott this caste census or this Siddaramaiah census. The High Court has allowed us to do that," Surya said.

Other BJP leaders may adopt a similar non-cooperative stance towards the survey, sources said.

On Thursday, the High Court declined to stop the survey. However, a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi directed the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission to ensure that the collected data is protected and to tell citizens that participation in the survey is voluntary.

"We will survey as per the court's directive. The survey has covered 10 lakh people so far," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

Following the High Court's directive, the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes issued a statement making it clear that participation in the survey is not compulsory.

"Though the survey envisages to cover the entire populace of the state, it is hereby clarified that the participation by citizens/households is voluntary and there is no compulsion on their part to disclose information," it stated.

By Saturday evening, 12.87 lakh households were covered. On Saturday alone, enumerators covered 8.18 lakh houses.

वित्तीय सेवाएं विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Karnataka Bank
Your Family Bank. Across India.
Shubh101
3 MONTH
FINANCIAL INCLUSION
SATURATION CAMPAIGN
1st July 2025 - 30th September 2025
At Least One
Camp in Every
GRAM
PANCHAYAT
FACILITIES OFFERED IN CAMPS
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
Opening PMJDY Zero balance Account
Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
Guaranteed monthly pension of Rs 1000/- to 5000/-
Prime Minister Jevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
Life Insurance cover of Rs 2 Lakhs in case death due to any reason.
Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
Accidental death benefit of Rs 2 Lakhs
Re verification of KYC/Nomination/Awareness about Digital Fraud and Cybercrime.
Re-KYC for savings, Inactive accounts including PMJDY account.
Ensure nomination, Secure your loved one's future.
Awareness about Digital fraud and DEAF accounts.
Please contact nearest Bank Branch / Visit Camp for more information
Join the Movement. Spread the Word. Be Insured
Visit the Camp in each Panchayat for Jansuraksha Schemes
Enrollment, Account Opening, Re-KYC & prevention of frauds.
AVAIL THE BENEFITS

SCAN
WATCH NOW!
DH
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
Freedom
Healthy Cooking Oils
presents
cuisines of karnataka
Season 4
Discover the Timeless, Rich Treasures of Karnataka's Flavours in this Exciting Video Series!
Step into the heart of Karnataka's culinary tradition with Chef Sihi Kahi Chandru! Watch as he crafts two beloved Dasara Special dishes, Halasina Mulka and Hurgadle Nippattu. Bringing you a taste of the state's rich heritage. These recipes are a true celebration of Karnataka's authentic flavours, packed with tradition and taste that'll transport your taste buds.
Cook up a storm and share your masterpiece at dh@deccanherald.co.in for a chance to win exciting prizes!
COLLATERAL
LPG Partner
Indane
Kitchen Partner
Prestige
Special Partner
BHIMA
Snacks Partner
Lay's
Associate Sponsors
SBI card
Vencobb
eco crystal
WATER TREATMENT

HIGH IN SKY

The 'Sarang' team of the Indian Air Force displays aerial manoeuvers during the practice session for the Dasara Airshow in Mysuru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

JD(S) plans indefinite stir against Bidadi township from today

BENGALURU, DHNS

LIST OF DEMANDS

- An immediate halt to land acquisition for the township project
- Action against GBDA officials and cops who threatened farmers
- Making the project report prepared by the Boston Consulting Group public
- A white paper detailing acquisition of land around Bengaluru for industrial projects

The JD(S) has called for an indefinite stir, starting Sunday, to protest the state government's Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project in Bidadi.

JD(S) Youth Wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday said that the party would fight alongside the farmers to compel the government to drop the project. "Our protest will go on till the state government agrees to drop the project," said Nikhil, adding that both former prime minister Deve Gowda and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy would address the protesting farmers, albeit virtually, on Sunday.

Accusing the Congress government of being 'anti-farmer', Nikhil pointed out that nearly 80% of the farmers who would lose their land to the project were opposed to it. He added, "We condemn the injustice being meted out to the farmers."

The JD(S) leader questioned the government's failure to order a social and environmental survey before going ahead with the project. Nikhil further alleged that officials from the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) and cops were threatening farmers to part with their land.

Citing the thousand-day stir by farmers at Channarayapatna in Devanahalli, Nikhil said, "Similarly, JD(S) will fight the government here. We will take this to its logical end."

Nikhil urged the government to successfully execute a pilot project on the 900-acre land parcel acquired by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). Nikhil also pointed to GBDA's lack of experience in this domain as being another sore point in the entire affair.

The JD(S) leader sought to know if Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had convened a meeting with the local farmers. "Why is this project being rushed? What is the hidden motive? Does the government have any idea as to what this project will do to the farmers," asked Nikhil.

Study calls for redesign of three 'guarantee' schemes

BENGALURU, DHNS: While giving the five "guarantee" schemes a thumbs-up, a study has found that Shakti, Yuva Nidhi and Gruha Lakshmi programmes need "redesign" as they are not resulting in large-scale employability, employment and economic growth.

The impact evaluation of the "guarantee" schemes was done by independent policy consultant Tara Krishnaswamy with Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and Indus Action Initiatives. The report was submitted to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday.

"In their current design and deployment, none of the three schemes - Shakti, Yuva Nidhi and Gruha Lakshmi - result in increases in large-scale employability, employment and economic growth," the study found. "All three enable the seeking of a better or new job, and stemming economic distress, but do not present evidence of increasing economic outcomes. They have the potential to catalyse employment in scale but will need redesign," it said.

The mixed-method study (quantitative and qualitative) covered 6,125 samples in 15 districts.

The study found other gaps such as "deprivation" of communities like the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and waste workers due to Anna Bhagya enrolments being closed for two years.

Savings

"The biggest impact is to women's self-confidence, self-reliance and empowerment," Tara said.

"While women receive Gruha Lakshmi money, they also save money due to Shakti (75% saving up to Rs 500 per week) and Gruha Jyoti (74% saving up to Rs 500 per month)," Tara said.

"About 75-98% women report improvement in access to health & nutrition as combined impact of five guarantees across all districts surveyed. While they get more grains through enhanced Anna Bhagya, women use saved or received money on milk, vegetables, eggs, meat for families," Tara said.

"Shakti is a tour de force for lower-income women's employment and income boost. In Bengaluru Urban district, 34% reported new or better jobs, with 26% having acquired new jobs. This raises their earned income," she found.

Dharmasthala case: Recording of complainant's statement completed

MANGALURU, DHNS: The recording of the statement of the complainant-witness in the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case was completed at the Belthangady JMFC Court on Saturday.

Sources in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) said that he was brought from Shivamogga jail to the Belthangady JMFC Court at 11.30 am and remained there until 4.30 pm. Later, he was taken back to Shivamogga prison under tight security.

The complainant-witness, who had lodged a complaint with the Dharmasthala police, had earlier handed over a skull, claiming it to be the remains of a body he had buried and later exhumed. However, when the SIT questioned him further and asked him to identify the exact spot where the skull had been dug out, he reportedly hesitated and later retracted, stating that he had not exhumed it himself.

Following this, the SIT arrested him and produced him before the court on August 23, after which the Belthangady JMFC court remanded him in judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the hearing on the bail application of activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody in connection with a case registered by Belthangady police under the Arms Act has been posted to September 30. The bail application was filed before the principal district and sessions court in Mangaluru. As the public prosecutor sought time to file objections, the court granted time and posted the matter to September 30.

On the other hand, Belthangady Tahsildar Prithvi Sanikam has denied permission for the proposed protest on September 29 against the externment order issued to Thimarody.

DH Classifieds

More value, more impact

email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Anekal

KHB Sites in Surya City Near Jigani
STRRA & BMRDA Approved Plots
Near Bannerghatta Road Akhata & Ekhata Plots Ready for Registration SBI & Nationalised Bank Loan (Land Owner Share) **Call : 74115 54412**

Anjanapura

SITE FOR Sale Anjanapura 10 Block BDA 50X80 - 4000 sqft South Facing Contact: 9844274211

Banashankari

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

AVAILABLE BANASHANKARI 6th Stage, 6th Block 30x40, W/F,Near 100" Road Budget Friendly Call Lingaraju: 9663393533

WEST FACING SITE 30'x45' for sale in Banashankari 1st stage, Srinagar, for price call: 9845380312

BDA AUCTION Site, Banashankari 6th Stage, 10th Block, 20X30 Corner site, North West facing. 9900266984

BDA BSK 5th Stage Near PP Layout Uttarahalli Opposite Pattalamma Temple 30x40 E/F: 9448531837/ 9606922132

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage,BDA 40x60, Site For Sale Near 100 Feet Road Cheque Payment: 9916817739

Basavanagudi

SALE BDA Site 30x50 North Face Hanumanth Nagar Basavanagudi Near Bramin Cafe Good Location 8880014616

HSR Layout

"HSR-LAYOUT 20X30 Commercial Building 1.80 Lakh`Rent, 20x30 Duplex House, 20x30,30x40,40x60 Commercial`& Residential`Sites for`sale. "Krishna"- 9886294610"

Intl Airport Road

NORTH-EAST FACING Corner`Site, 1143`Sqft and 1081`Sqft for`sale`at Boyilahalli Bangalore North Taluka,BIAPA approved E-Khata.Near`to International Airport. Contact: 9945155583

Jayanagar

PROPERTY SALE Jayanagar 30X40, 40X60, 45X90 AND JP-NAGAR 30×40, 20×65, 40×60, 50×80: 9845075792/ 9880600899

J P Nagar

BDA LAND 2400 Sft With Old Villa Brokers Excuse Genuine Buyers Only Contact Owner:9341273990

Kengeri

30'×40' WEST facing, BBMP E-Katha site for sale in Krishnagiri police layout. 9250/ per sq.feet. Direct owner. Contact: 9448256608/ 7760990853

FOR SALE Kengeri Upanagara 40x60 BDA Site Rs.15000/- Per Sqft. Clear titles. Contact: 9844092859

Kempegowda Layout

BDA SITE AVAILABLE @ NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Residential/ Commercial. Contact: 9686469799

SITE FOR-SALE KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT 7th Block'L' Sectorattached,DC Convertion(BDA NOC) 30x40, 6300/-slightly negotiable. Contact:6364931135

NADA PRABHU Kempegowda layout BDA Site For Sale 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact: 7676900174 6363496142

DIRECT OWNER Near Metro Station, Kempegowda Layout, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Commercial: 9620696913/ 9880781399

Multiple Locations

AVAILABLE/ WANTED Apartment Basavanagudi, Banashankari, Chamrajpete, Shankarapuram, V.V.Pura, Hanumanthnagar, Girinagar, Residencial/ Commercial Sites Sale: 9900399006

Nagarabhavi

"NAGARABHAVI NEAR Deepa Complex 40x60 East Vastu_BDA Site 35_feet Road, Immediate Registration. 9448432633"

30X50 WEST D-Group Nagrabhavi BDA BBMP A-Katha, 30x40 North West Corner, 30x46 Rs. 14500/- 9980409820

Nelamangala

NELMANGALA BMRDA A Katha South West Corner Site 33.5X50, (60ft, 30ft Road) Near NH-4: 8310681025

RMV

SITE FOR SALE 50x88 North East corner BDA site, Kalpana Chawla Road RMV 2nd Stage. Genuine buyers only. Contact: 9535673309

Seshadripuram

SITE SALE, 40'x50' West Facing, Jawahar Street, Platform Road, Seshadripuram, Behind Swati Hotel & Apollo Hospital: 9343368313/ 9844009086

Thanisandra

4800 SQFT., CORNER PROPERTY FOR SALE, 3 sides with road access, NEAR MANYATA TECH PARK, IN THANISANDRA, Behind Elements Mall. Rs. 3.6 CRORE. 9449281474, 8237436295

Vishweshwariah Layout

"30X40 WF RESIDENTIAL 1ST_BLOCK, 50x80 COMMERCIAL BDA_SITES SALE 6TH_BLOCK VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT- 9845143579"

VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 9th 50x60 NW Site. 2145 Commercial 60ft RTO Road Rs. 24000/- Sqft: 9845793121

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 1ST BLOCK 30X40 EAST FACE 13000/- NEGOTIABLE DIRECT OWNER MEETING CONTACT: 8892901567

"VISHVESWARAIAH 1ST_BLOCK 50x80 North 6th_Block 40x60 West 5th_Block 30x40 Good_location. 9448227274/ 7259675150"

AVAILABLE BDA Site Vishweshwariah Layout 3rd Block 30X40 West Facing Good Location Genuine Buyers: 7338688111

Bidadi

SITE FOR SALE, 40x60 'E' Khatha, North facing, at Bidadi 2 Sites Available, No Agreement, Single Shot Payment. 50 Lakhs each. Contact: 080-23342399 or 9538995333

Hegganahalli

SITE SALE 160x100ft In Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore A Katha Borewell Brick wall Fenced: 9900287834/ 9448377834

Chandra Layout

BDA AUCTION Site 1632 sqft. North East Corner, Rs. 25000 /sft. Chandra Layout, Near ICICI Bank. 9448016234 9945779309

Mathikere

FOR-LEASE 3BHK Ground Floor Very CloseTo MS-Ramaiha College MSR-Nagar Mattikere For Lease 19L: 7022106263

Vijayanagar

SITE FOR SALE: 60X90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT ONLY GENUINE BUYERS CONTACT: 6363250343

House

BTM Layout

HOUSE FOR Sale at BTM Layout 40x60, Opp Metro Station. Hebbal 30x50 CIL Layout. 9480255422.

Basavanagudi

SALE HOUSE (old) NR Colony (Basavanagudi) West_Facing 40x60 Good Residential Area Contact Vani Estates: 9845012548

Jayanagar

JAYANAGAR 8TH BLOCK 30x50 SALE NORTH Facing OLD HOUSE EXCELLENT LOCATION. Rs.44K NEGOTIABLE. SHIVU 9880004149 9035441234

Kengeri

RESIDENCIAL BUILDING SALE 30x50 BBMP E-katha 1 Lakh Rental Income 2BHK:5units, 3BHK:1Unit Near Hoysala Circle Kengeri Upanagar. Brokers`Excuse. Call 9738016535

Mathikere

MATHIKERE OLD house for sale 24.5X54sqft South facing behind devasandra Bus stand new BEL road Contact 9360977313 /9900578022

Vidyaranyapura

IMMEDIATE REGISTRATION: 60'x40' BEL 2nd Block 4 BHK Duplex House Prime Location 15500/- S/F. 9844264852

Annapoorneshwari Nagar

BDA SITE Sale, East facing, 30X40, 3 BHK, Annapoorneshwarinagar, Nagarabhavi 2nd stage. Contact: 9019962007

Kodigehalli

FOR-LEASE 2BHK 2nd Floor Lift, Carpark Cauvery Water Telecom Colony Kodigehalli Bangalore Lease 15L: 7022106263

Flat

Banashankari

"BANASHANKARI 2ND_STAGE 2BHK_Flat higher floor with Club house North_door Rs.1.65_Crore "Sri.Ganesh Estate"- 9845286505"

Electronic City

**3BHK, 3`BATHROOMS** and 2`Balconies. Apartment 1865`Sqft. 31st-floor East`facing for`sale @`Sobha Brooklyn Towers, Yadavanahalli near`Electronic City on`Hosur highway. Contact: 9945155583

Vidyaranyapura

3BHK FLAT, 1300sqft G-Floor, near vidyaranyapura for sale. Ph-9902100500 Brokers Excuse.

Intl Airport Road

IAF YELAHANKA Hunasamaranahalli:2BHK 62L, 3BHK 72L, 3BHK with Terrace Sale Rs. 130Lakhs.Ct: 9343757676

Kothnur Dinne

FLAT FOR Sale, Kotnur Dinne, JPN, 39 Lakhs Including Registration, 9663676464

Commerical

BTM Layout

BTM LAYOUT, Sale Commercial Corner, 2,500 sft. Site with Old House. Price: 40,000/- David 9845855663

Kumarapark

COMMERCIAL SPACE- For SALE. Embassy Center, No. 213, 2nd Floor, Kumara Park East, Bengaluru- 560001. Area: 515 Sqft, Prime Location, Ideal for Office. Contact: 6366514777| 9448684033.

Magadi Road

FOR SALE 65x84 West Face Industrial/ Commercial Site BBMP katha, Sajjepalya, close to Sumanahalli Under-Bridge. Call-Ashok- 9900240029.

Nandini Layout

INDUSTRIAL LAND with threefloors building each 1200sqft forsale in truck terminal Kanteerava Studiogate Road Contact 9483400249

Yeshwanthpur

SALE COMMERCIAL Land 5000 SFT APMC Yard Three Side Road near Shankarnagar. RUDRAPPA: 9035334418, 9141326819

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Dobaspet

MANAGED FARM Land- For SALE. Whispering Hills, Dabaspete, Plot No. 17. Total Area: 6,578 Sqft. Peaceful Environment, Perfect for Weekend Home. Contact: 6366514777| 9448684033.

Mysore Road

FARM LAND For Sale 14 Guntas Near Chalaghatta Metro Station And RR Dental College Mysore Road: 8970306030

Out-Station

KOTAGIRI, NILGIRIS, Tamil Nadu: 60 Acres Patta Land with Teak Wood for Sale Contact: 9848392893, 9052200009

Industrial & Factory

Mysore Road

INDUSTRIAL CONVERTED LAND AVILABLE FOR SALE AREA 10000SQFT TO 20000 SQFT TO 1ACRE AT KUMBALGODU IND AREA MYSORE ROAD MOB:6366378787/ 9964783877

Tumkur Road

SALE 2.24 Acres Land Suitable for Warehouse, Industry, Residencial, School, Resorts, Nursing College. 9141326819, 9880462738

Commercial Building

Domlur

RENTAL PG building BUA 6000sft site 1600 sft for sale in domlur at Rs 6cr .Agents excuse 9845440436

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA SITES Anjanapura- Arkavathi Banashankari 6th.Stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda. SAPTHAGIRI (Opp.BDA Head Office, Kumara Park). 9036360366.

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

800 SQFT Office space for Rent No. 56/6, 2nd Floor, Nandini Layout, FTI Circle, above SBI Bank, Bangalore Contact: 9845030795

1150 SFT SW corner, for showrooms, etc : 8197237859

WEEKEND CORNER

Classifieds

ARUNA SILKS
Dasara, Deepavali Festival & Anniversary Special
DISCOUNT SALE
10% to 50%
• Wedding Sarees
• Fancy Sarees
• Salwars
• Men's Wear
• Kid's Wear
*On Selected Counter
ARUNA SILK PARADISE
@ RAJAJINAGAR
# 713 , Jinka Avenue, Modi Hospital Road (W.O.C Road), Rajajinagar Bangalore - 86
Ph : 080 23197755.
SRI ARUNA SILKS
@ KENGERI SATELLITE TOWN
#141,1st Main Road, Near Hoysala Circle, Next to Axis Bank, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore – 60
Ph : 080 29917755
Car Parking Available
Mob: 76764 05040
All 7 Days Open

WAREHOUSE/ OFFICE_SPACE available for rent, near Hoodi, Whitefield, Bangalore. Area Gf-20,000`sqft. 1st_floor-20,000`sqft. Call_8150943158

BANASHANKARI 6TH_STAGE 80`Feet Road,11th`Block 50x80 Site Built-to-Suit. And 2nd`Block, 80`Feet Road,50x80 RENT for Vacant`Site. Call_9945724472

M.G. ROAD Fully furnished 3000 sft Office for Rent, Second Floor Lift/ Parking nearby Metro. Presently occupied by Bank, shifting shortly. Contact SHARIF: 9886335522.

Flats

NEW 2 BHK Rent 33K Telecom Layout, Jakkur, Sriramapura Including Maintenance, Electricity Water, Call: 9880315695

Industrial And Factory

AVAILABLE OF Industrial Shed of 75000`sqft at Soukya Road, Whitefield. Available Built-to-Suit Warehouse 160000 sqft`Vijipura Hoskote Contact: 9341234288/ 9663224353/ 9845417487.

Villas/Bunglows

FOR RENT Vasanth Nagar 5 BHK Bunglow. Near Mahaveer Jain Hospital. Vegetarians Only: 9844072344/ 9844830500

AUTOMOTIVE

6/10 Wheeler Selling

Tipper

TIPPERS FOR SALE
10-WHEELER TIPPERS - 2 Nos is 2005 Model.
& 6-WHEELER TIPPER - 1 No
Good Working Condition.
Contact:
9945192111
Location: Bangalore

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bangalore

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR SALE
Large quantity of used construction materials in good conditions. Such as Shuttering Plate, Jacks, Spans, Cuplock scafolding and Machinery such as Mixer Machine, DG Sets of different capacity Winch and Hoist, passenger hoist for sale.
Contact:
6360605636 / 8431164733

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT, Mr. Deepak Kapahi, son of Late Issardas Kapahi and Mr. Chandra Kapahi, son of late Issardas Kapahi are the aboslute joint owners of the schedule property. They have kept the schedule property for sale. Further it is informed that, the said Deepak Kapahi has lost the original Sale Deed dated 2-4-1993 registered as document No.4300/1994-95, Book-1, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore in respect of the schedule property, while in transit in Sindhi Colony. In this regard the said Deepak Kapahi through his PA Holder has lodged a complaint on 11-9-2025 vide Lost report No.1796667/2025. The said Deepak Kapahi has kept the schedule property for sale.

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property more fully described below from its owner Sri. Deepak Kapahi and Chandra Kapahi.

Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title and interest over the schedule property are called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection/s with the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication. If no such objections or claims are received within the said period, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property and the claims received after the said period will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Flat No. G-5, "SNS Manor", New BBMP No. 2/6, PID No. 3-12-98 (New PID No. 7844685917), Ground Floor, measuring 817 sq.ft. super built-up area, together with an absolute and equal share in the undivided land appurtenant to the apartment and proportionate share in all common areas, situated at #2, Brunton Road, Bangalore - 560025.

Sd/- Krishnapp.N
Advocate
Krishnappa.N & Assocaites
No.915, 1st floor, 5th A Cross, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyanangar post Babusabpalya, Bangalore-560040
M-9341909917

EDUCATIONAL

Private Tuitions

WANTED A qualified lady maths home tutor for 8th standard student at Sahyadri nagar, Belagavi. Contact 9964892744

TOURS & TRAVEL

Holiday Package Tours

GROUP TOURS, Any Destination, Get Quote in 10 Minutes. Sarakki Tours, 9663676464

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Ravichandra & Hemalatha N,** R/at No. L80, 1st Cross, Kanakana Palya, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011, have changed our minor Son's name from **AADVITH VAIBAV R** to **RITHIK KAARTHIK R** vide affidavit dated 16-05-2025 before notary Jayalingayya Mudenoormath, Bengaluru.

I, KOUSHIK. C, S/o. Mr. Chikkegowda, 33 Years, R/at. No. 34, 6th Cross, Kamat Layout, Channanayakanapalya, Nagasandra Post Bangalore-73. I hereby declare that the below names i.e. 'KOWSHIK. C' and 'C. KOUSHIK' are the names of one and the same person i.e. myself vide Affidavit dated 25.09.2025 before MAMATHA. N.K. Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Zainlabddin,** R/at Ward No.12, Door No. 4145m 1st Cross, Extension, Ramanagara Town-562159, have changed my minor Son's name from **Mohammed Shoaib Saleem** to **MOHAMMED SHOIAB SALEEM** vide affidavit dated 20-05-2025 before notary Vinod Kumar, Bengaluru.

I YELLURI VISHAL, Residing at B2-1-114, Sumadhura Sawan MTB Seetharamapalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru- 560048, have changed to New name YELLUR VISHAL RAO, vide affidavit dated 27/09/2025 before notary Veena.J Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Komala Raj Kumar** W/o Rajkumar S, R/at No.29, Bazzar Street, 1st Main, Gowthampuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560008, have changed my name to **KOMALA** vide affidavit dated 27.09.2025 before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **KOMALA** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Chathanath Padinjare Sasikumar,** R/at No. 303, N R Royal Manor Apt, Royal Enclave Layout, Srirampura, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to **C P SASIKUMAR MENON** vide affidavit dated 26.09.2025 before notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **C P SASIKUMAR MENON** only

MATRIMONIAL

Grooms Wanted

Muslim

SUNNI GIRL, 32yrs, 5.5', unmarried, Wkg in IT Bangalore. Looking for IT engineer working in Blore. Mail: munird255@gmail.com

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Finance

ALL LOANS from Bank/ Pvt. (Direct): Mortgage (any property- with/ without income), Project takeover, NPA, 3rd party Collateral, Sharing, Subsidy, Startup. Cibil no issue. Low int .Dsa, Mediators also welcome. Cont: 9019388175.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

REAL ESTATE

BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN
DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY
ON SATURDAY + SUNDAY

www.dhclassifieds.com
BOOK NOW
Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:
+91 9845114560 | +91 9886213331
+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164
*Conditions apply

3-year deadline for guest faculty to obtain UGC qualifications proposed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Officials in the Higher Education Department have suggested setting a three-year deadline for guest lecturers at government first-grade colleges to obtain qualifications prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

At a meeting between the officials of the Higher Education and Law departments, plans to extend the tenure of guest lecturers for the current academic year were also floated.

The High Court order mandating the government to appoint only those who meet the UGC's eligibility criteria – lecturers must either have a PhD or have cleared NET/KSET – has plunged the future of thousands of guest lecturers in uncertainty, given that more than 5,500 of those working at government first-grade colleges do not have these qualifications.

An official from the Higher Education Department said that they were mulling extending the service of guest lecturers on humanitarian grounds. "Many of them have been working for years for a small honorarium, but do not have the qualifications prescribed by UGC. We are trying to find a solution that is in keeping with the High Court's order. The CM will hold discussions on this issue, and a decision will be taken thereafter," the official said.

Rainwater has gushed into houses in the slum area in Kalaburagi. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

A man shifts household articles after River Bhima flooded his house in Hurasagundavi village of Yadgir taluk on Saturday.

Flood situation remains grim in Bhima basin districts

Over 4,700 affected villagers evacuated in Kalaburagi dist

KALABURAGI, DHNS

The flood situation in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir and Vijayapura districts has worsened on Saturday with the release of 3.50 lakh cusecs of water from the Ujani and Sina reservoirs of Maharashtra and incessant rainfall.

Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Tarannum said that 41 relief/gruel centres have been opened so far in the villages affected by the Bhima river flood and 4,715 victims have been evacuated in Kalaburagi district. As many as 68 villages in the district are affected by the Bhima river floods.

Orange alert has been declared in the district on September 27 and 28. The red alert is declared in the upstream areas of the river. Two-day holiday is declared for schools.

The river is in spate due to heavy discharges from Sonna barrage

The SDRF, NDRF teams, police, fire department personnel have been deployed in the flood-affected areas. District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge has visited flood affected villages.

NH-50 closed for traffic

The vehicular movement on National Highway-50 in Jewargi taluk has been stopped with Bhima river flowing above the danger mark and the bridge may go under floodwaters anytime soon. The traffic ban has caused traffic congestion at Kattisangavi village. The passengers travelling to and from Bengaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Vijayapura and other parts of the state are stuck near the bridge.

Heavy rain has aggravated the flood situation in Bidar district due to release of excessive water from Dhanegaon reservoir in Maharashtra.

Many villages in Kamalnagar, Aurad, Bhalki, Hulsur and Bidar taluks have been cut off. Vast tracts of agricultural lands have gone under the floodwaters of Manjra river.

Relentless rainfall for the last three days has paralysed normal life in Kembavi, Saidapur and surrounding areas of Yadgir district. Tur and cotton crops are damaged due to stagnation of rainwater.

People walk to the other side of the bridge on National Highway-50 near Kattisangavi of Jewargi taluk in Kalaburagi district following the ban on vehicular traffic over a bridge across swollen Bhima river. DH PHOTO BY TAJUDDIN AZAD

Boy killed, sibling hurt in wall collapse

Many parts of Bagalkot district witnessed heavy rainfall on Saturday. A 11-year-old boy, Darshan Latur, died after a portion of the house wall collapsed on him near Ambedkar Circle in Mahalingpur town.

His brother Shrishailsustained injuries in the incident and has been rushed to a hospital. Darshan's sister and mother escaped unhurt in the incident.

The fire department personnel have rescued more than 10 victims including three pregnant women and three children, who were stranded in flood waters of Bhima river by boat at Shambewad village of Almel taluk in Vijayapura district.

Temporary shelter has been provided to 654 victims by opening 14 care centres.

The road from Indi to Agarkheda is also flooded with rainwater, blocking vehicular traffic and 14 houses are damaged in the district.

RSS centenary: Public outreach event in Bengaluru on Nov 8,9

Bhagwat to meet reps from diverse sectors

BENGALURU, DHNS

As part of its centenary celebrations, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is holding public outreach programmes across the country, with one scheduled in Bengaluru on November 8 and 9 at PES Engineering College, Banashankari.

During the two-day event, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with representatives from sectors including education, health, social service, entertainment, sports, industry, finance, arts and culture, and heads of institutions.

Coordinators have begun contacting invitees, and some have already confirmed, sources said.

Invitees are not confined to those with ideological links to the Sangh, a source added.

"The event marks 100 years of the organisation and the chief will engage with select representatives from different sections of society," the source said.

The Bengaluru programme was initially planned for three days but was reduced to two.

The sessions will be held from 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm on November 8 and from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm on November 9.

RSS has set a target of at least 1,500 such conferences across India.

Similar events will take place in Kolkata and Mumbai in November, while 18 world capitals will also host programmes.

Documentaries and publications have been prepared in foreign languages, including French and German.

The centenary celebrations will be launched on October 2, Vijayadashami day.

From this Vijayadashami to the next, RSS will observe Shatabdi Varsha, focusing on five themes: environment, social harmony, family awareness, civic responsibility and self-reliant systems.

Eight injured in Hosapete LPG cylinder blast

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS: Eight people sustained injuries after the LPG cylinder in their house exploded at Gadiganur in Hosapete taluk on Saturday.

The condition of four of the injured is stated to be serious.

All the injured have been admitted at Sanjeevini Hospital in Toranagal. A new cylinder was installed in the house after the old one emptied. It is said that the regulator was not properly fitted as a result of which gas leaked leading to cylinder explosion.

District in-charge minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and MLA H R Gaviappa visited the hospital and inquired about condition of the injured.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE

Sr M. Stanislas A.C
Former Principal of Mary Immaculate School, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru 'A Great Educationist', passed away on 25.09.2025. Funeral at St Agnes Convent, Mangaluru on 28.09.2025 at 03:00 P.M.
May Her Noble Soul Rest in Peace
Management, Staff and Students Mary Immaculate School, Bengaluru

BJP core committee discusses floods, GBA polls

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP core committee decided on Saturday to form teams to visit flood-hit areas and start preparing for the upcoming elections to city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

"There is flooding in over 16 districts. This government is not helping farmers. The previous BJP government went beyond NDRF norms to pay higher relief to farmers," BJP general secretary P Rajeev said. "Teams under core committee members will visit the flood-hit areas and expose the failures of this government," he said.

It was also decided to rope in party lawmakers to ensure citizens are not deprived of benefits under the GST 2.0, Rajeev said.

The core committee also discussed intensifying the party's campaign against corruption in the installation of smart meters.

HC bins plea on category change after declaration of NEET PG results

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court has ruled that a candidate cannot change his or her category in NEET-UG/PG after the results are declared.

The court passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by C Anusha, who had appeared in NEET-PG 2025, and the last date for submitting the application was March 7, 2025.

A three-day window, from March 9 to 11, was given for making corrections in the form.

After the results were declared on August 19, Anusha filed a petition on September 8, seeking a change of category from GM to OBC, stating that she belongs to the Nekar (weaver) community.

She also cited high court judgments to support her claim.

However, Deputy Solicitor General Shanthi Bhushan, appearing for the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences as well as the Medical Counselling Committee, argued that the petitioner had a three-day window to correct her application form if she was of the opinion that she belonged to the OBC category, but she did not make use of it.

A division bench of Justices DK Singh and Venkatesh Naik T noted that in the P Lakshmi Gowda case judgment, cited by the petitioner, the high court had specified that the case should not be treated as a precedent.

In the other case (the Bhanusri case), the high court had noted that the request for a change in category was made before the results were declared.

The bench said that once a candidate fills out his or her form for NEET-UG/PG belonging to a particular category, and if he or she fails to correct the application form during the window given by the National Testing Agency, the candidate would not be entitled to change his or her category after the declaration of the results.

"Therefore, both the cases relied on by the counsel for the petitioner are distinguishable based on the facts of the present case. We, therefore, find no substance in this writ petition," the bench said.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Wanted

SURIE POLEX
URGENT REQUIREMENT
OFFICE ASSISTANCE (Female)
Good Communication Skill & Basic Computer Knowledge.
M/s. SURIE POLEX INDUSTRIES LLP
No. 17, 4th Main, RD Nagar BG Road, B'lore-560030
Mob: 93419 69809

WANTED
OFFICE_BOY Contact: G.Subramaniam BIMS_Consulting Group, Near Shivananda Circle. (9448575683) bimsconsult@yahoo.com

Teachers/ Professors

515 ABW HIGH SCHOOL
Halasuru, Bangalore-08
REQUIRES
TEACHING & NON TEACHING STAFF ON CONTRACT BASIS
Kindly visit: http://515armyschool.co.in/recruitment
For detailed advertisement or
Contact: 080-25307559

SESHADRIPURAM INSTITUTIONS
27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram Bengaluru-560 020. Phone: 22955350
Website: www.set.edu.in E-mail : set.edu.in@gmail.com
Application for the post of
TRAINING & PLACEMENT OFFICER
Eligibility: First class in MBA or equivalent preferably in HR / marketing specialization from a reputed institute / university with 8 - 10 years industry experience & minimum of 3 - 5 years of experience in same position.
Job Specifications:
- Effective communication and negotiation skills.
- Should possess strong corporate relations.
- Wide industry connect and networking skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with a strong mindset for student counseling & hosting placement drive.
- Proficiency in digital tools and platforms.
- Alumni Engagement & networking.

Salary commensurate with qualification and experience.
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT
Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 10 years administrative experience in higher educational institution with good communication skills in Kannada & English and Computer knowledge.
Eligible candidates may apply in handwritten application along with a detailed resume, passport size photo & copies of testimonials etc. to the **Honorary General Secretary, Seshadripuram Educational Trust, Bengaluru-560 020 within 7 days** through e-mail to **set.edu.in@gmail.com**
N. R. Pandith Aradhya, President — Dr. Wooday P. Krishna, Honorary General Secretary

WANTED TEACHERS
ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS For HIGH SCHOOL. Part/Full Time. School Near Coles Park 9353111888

Part-Time Jobs
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY with HDFC Bank Subsidiary. Age 35-70, 75K +, PF/ESI. Experience Only: 9606096111
JOB OPPORTUNITY Retired Men, Housewife & Graduates Age 40 to 80, Earn upto 75,000: 9886641282/ 6362220162

Marketing & Sales
'REQUIRED RESTAURANT Marketing Manager, Restaurant Marketing Executive, Attractive Salary, Interested Persons May contact immediately at below Address Sitara Dakshin Restaurant, #43, Ground Floor , HAL 3rd Stage, 80 Feet Road, Opposite BSNL Office, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, 7842868281, 9694694555'

Hospital & Medical Jobs
EXCELCARE HOSPITAL
A UNIT OF EXCELCARE HEALTH ALLIANCE PVT LTD
#3/2, 27th Cross Rd, Banashankari Stage II, Bengaluru-560070
HIRING ALERT
Join Our Growing Healthcare Team! We're expanding and looking for passionate healthcare Professionals to be part of our journey.
Open Positions: Front Office, Nursing Staff, Pharmacist, MRD (Medical Records Department), Medical Transcriptionist, Sleep Therapy Technician, MBBS Doctors, MPT (Physiotherapists).
Location: Excel Care Hospital Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore
Shift: Rotational, Walk-ins Welcome! Apply Now: email your CV to **hrm.excelcare@gamil.com**

ANM A FEMALE & fulltime patient care giver NURSE for CHETANA VIHARA Assisted Living Centre, Shanthinagar, Bangalore- 560027. Boarding & Lodging provided. Contact: 080-26601239/ 97418-62781 Email: cvhospital.in@gmail.com

"DENTIST-BDS & MDS (in`any specialisation) Required immediately at`Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore: Full-time/ Part-time. Call: 9844016274/ 9341223410"

Hotel
MANAGERS/ SUPERVISOR & Candidates with Hotel Management/ Business Administration Background for CAFE MYTHRI at Bommasandra Industrial Area, Bangalore- 560099. Contact: 080-26601239/ 97418-62781 Email: cafemythri@gmail.com

Security & Detectives
URGENTALLY REQUIRED 21 Gunmen with Arms (Ex-Servicemen) at DRDO, Marathahalli, Bangalore-37, Age Upto 64 Years payment As per DGR Area-'A' Contact: No.:- 8660223798, 9110919547, 9035818103

Situation Required
GM, CEO Profile, 10 Years Experience, Quality Audits, Black Belt Six Sigma, Both Manufacturing, Software. Please Call:- 9743995549.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

'Only HC can pass order on sharing Aadhaar data required in police probe'

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

In terms of Section 33 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, only the high court can pass an order on sharing or disclosing information, including identity or authentication records, according to the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj ruled this while allowing a petition filed for directing the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to provide Aadhaar location details to assist the investigation in a missing person case.

"When during the course of investigation by police authority or any investigating authority in the event of usage of Aadhaar card including authentication, etc are required, an application can be made before the high court in terms of Section 33 of the Act of 2016 and the high court could examine the same after providing an opportunity to the UIDAI and pass such orders as just and necessary including providing of details of usage of Aadhaar card and the location where it has been used," Justice Govindaraj said. Krishnamurthy, a resident of Hubballi, submitted that his elder son had gone missing in December 2019 and an FIR was registered at the Gokul Road police station. There was no lead in the case despite efforts to trace the missing person.

However, in June 2023, Krishnamurthy learnt about the usage of his son's Aadhaar and authentication of the transaction. He moved the high court after the UIDAI refused to share the information on the basis of the requisition placed by the jurisdictional police.

The UIDAI contended that the Aadhaar information is confidential and protected by the right to privacy as per the Supreme Court judgement in the Justice Puttaswamy case and therefore the details cannot be disclosed even to the investigating officer upon request.

After perusing the provisions, Justice Govindaraj noted that sharing any information, including usage or authentication of Aadhaar card, would either be in terms of Section 29 (the consent of Aadhaar card holder and verification) or in terms of Section 33 where only the high court can pass an order directing the sharing or disclosure of the information.

"The Aadhaar card of the missing son of the petitioner has been put to use. What is required to be ascertained is to whether the said Aadhaar card has been put to such use by the son of the petitioner or anyone else and the location where the said use has been made so as to further investigate the matter. When there is no such information made available with the jurisdictional police authorities, there is no possibility of such investigation being proceeded with," Justice Govindaraj said, adding that no infirmity can be found with the UIDAI's decision refusing to share such records on the police requisition.

The court directed the UIDAI to furnish to the police only the details of the location where the missing person's Aadhaar card was used from the time of filing the missing complaint to date. It clarified that besides the location of usage, no other details shall be provided. Police were also directed not to share such information with anyone else, except as required for the purposes of the investigation.

'Kantara: Chapter 1' collects over Rs 5 cr in advance bookings

BENGALURU, DHNS: Advance bookings for *Kantara: Chapter 1*, a prequel to the 2022 film *Kantara*, opened on Saturday morning.

The much-awaited Rishab Shetty-starrer, also directed by him, is set for release on October 2.

According to box-office tracker Sacnilk, on the first day of booking, the film sold 73,444 tickets across all languages, earning Rs 5.26 crore in India. In Karnataka alone, collection stands at Rs 5.05 crore. Bengaluru records the highest at Rs 3.91 crore.

After the High Court stayed the government's order to cap movie ticket prices at Rs 200, ticket prices for the movie now stand approximately between Rs 320 and Rs 400 for non-premium seats in multiplexes.

Bengaluru multiplexes have been notorious for ridiculously priced FDFS (first day, first shows); movie buffs have shared how they spent close to Rs 2,000 to watch FDFS. However, with the ticket price controversy striking just a few days before the release of the film, the FDFS tickets stand at nominal prices.

IDENTITY PUZZLE Ahead of Bengal elections, strong OBC group pushes for ST status

Poll season adds heat to Kudmi agitation for tribal status

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Members of 'Kudmi Samaj' stage a 'rail roko' agitation demanding Scheduled Tribe status, at Jogeshwar Bihar railway station, in Bokaro district of Jharkhand. PTI FILE

In February this year, Chhatradhar Mahato, a prominent face of the Maoist-backed Lalgarh movement in West Bengal in 2010 that had contributed to the end of the Left Front rule in the state, held a show of strength at Jhargram. This was Mahato's first major public event after he was released from jail by a court last year in a train hijacking case. The NIA had picked him up in the midst of the 2021 Bengal Assembly polls, eviscerating him from active politics for four years.

While technically Mahato has been a member of the ruling Trinamool Congress's state committee since 2020, no party leaders were seen on the dais during the Jhargram event.

Mahato's renewed activity indicates key players have started to shuffle their cards ahead of the Assembly polls next year. Out of the 292 seats in the Assembly, almost 40 fall in the Jangalmahal region comprising Jhargram, Banukra, Paschim Medinipur and Purulia, where Mahato is said to have influence.

These districts, which form the south-west boundary of West Bengal, have a substantial tribal population. The second largest social bloc in the region is that of Kudmis, an OBC community that Mahato belongs to. He is said to have played a crucial role in delivering 24 out of 40 Jangalmahal seats to Mamata Banerjee in 2021, reversing the 2019 Lok Sabha trend when the BJP won 5 out of 6 seats in this belt. What will Mahato do in 2026?

Shifting fortunes

Last Saturday, the rail traffic to and from Kolkata was disrupted as the Kudmi community organised a day-long protest to press for their long-standing demand of inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list. The Kudmis-Mahatos are grouped in the OBC category with the Kurmis of Bihar.

The Kudmis are a land-cultivating caste from the Chota Nagpur plateau in Jharkhand who migrated to contiguous forest land, mostly to Jangalmahal in Bengal and some parts of Odisha. Hence, they have a presence in pockets of all three states and some districts of Bihar.

The 1921 Census described them as "tribal animist". The last caste census in India, conducted in 1931, categorised them as "primitive tribes".

Social scientists who have studied the recent contest for tribal identity by the Kudmis have chronicled the changes in the social status of the community that led to their exclusion from the Scheduled Tribes list constituted by the Presidential (Scheduled Tribe) Order, 1951.

Incidentally, the challenge to their classification as a tribe came from within the community in the 1920s, especially from upwardly mobile Mahatos who had bought land and prospered economically.

In 1930, a group of community representatives is said to have met the government representatives seeking to be recognised as "Kurmi-Kshatriyas".

WG Lacey, the Superintendent of 1931 Census Operations for Bihar and Odisha, found it rather baffling because exclusion from the "aboriginal" group would have denied them protection of their land holdings envisaged under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act (1908).

Seeking new avenues

The term Adivasi, in its political construct, was first used in India in 1938 with the formation of the Adivasi Mahasabha in today's Jharkhand. After Independence, the Constitution of India recognised tribal communities for positive discrimination by proposing reservations for seats in government jobs, education, parliament and state legislature.

Kudmi-Mahatos were not included in the list of Scheduled Castes drawn up by the Presidential (Scheduled Tribe) Order, 1950, for affirmative action. Only in 1989 was the community included in the OBC list.

The Kudmis of Chota Nagpur continue to hold the status of intermediary land-owning class, but the land holdings over the decades have diminished within families. Agrarian reforms introduced by various governments have also led to a ceiling and distribution of surplus land to the tribals.

The younger Kudmi generation, seeking to move out of the non-farming profession, has been seeking avenues to get into government jobs. In the OBC category, they have had to compete with other socially and educationally upward-mobile groups. The ST affirmative action, which remains reserved for the tribal communities like the Santhals, is less cluttered and competitive.

Moreover, unlike the OBC reservation, which is confined to affirmative action in education and employment, ST reservations offer a wider scope for assured political representation in Parliament and Assemblies. This demand for inclusion in the ST list creates a political fault line with cohabitant tribal communities like Mundas and Santhals.

The aspiration to acquire Adivasi status has a political dimension as well. And this phenomenon is not limited to Mahatos-Kunabis of Chota Nagpur, but the Kurabas of Karnataka or the Gujjars of Rajasthan.

Political contest

The demand for giving ST status to Kudmis has been growing since the formation of Jharkhand in 2001. The community, along with Telis, is the largest OBC group in the state. In a written answer to a question asked in 2024 in Parliament, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs said the state government has twice sent the recommendation to include the Kudmi community in the ST list.

Since the recommendation was not backed by an Ethnographic Report, the state was asked to do the same as per the modalities required to seek inclusion of a community in the ST list. The claim has to be further vetted by the Registrar of Census, the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, and then cleared by Parliament with a special majority.

The latest round of agitation by the Kudmis that began last week has been halted for now. The leadership of the movement claims that they have been assured an audience with Home Minister Amit Shah soon.

Cometh the election, cometh the issue.

Will drive out 'infiltrators' from Bihar: Amit Shah

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Bihar assembly election is about driving out 'infiltrators' from the state.

He addressed party workers in Samastipur and Araria.

Lashing out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Rashtriya Janata chief Lalu Prasad, Shah said, "Rahul baba, Lalu and company want to secure voting rights for infiltrators. I want to ask all you workers from the Seemanchal region, should we allow this?" evoking roars of 'no' from BJP cadre.

"I promise you that each and every infiltrator will be driven out of Bihar if the NDA wins with a two-thirds majority," he said.

In Samastipur, Shah met party leaders and workers and stressed unity within the NDA to secure a two-thirds majority in the 243-seat assembly.

50-day action plan

Shah told the workers to prepare a 50-day action plan and instructed them to engage directly with voters and mobilise at the booth level.

"We won many seats last time, but not enough to reach 160. This time, every district must increase its tally," he told party workers in Araria.

"In the 2020 Assembly elections, except for Kishanganj, our alliance stood first. In Bhagalpur, Banka, Araria, Purnea, Katihar, Supaul, Saharsa, and Madhepura, we were number one. BJP workers, the only shortcoming was in Kishanganj — this time, we must make sure we perform exceptionally well even there," he added.

The meeting was attended by senior BJP leaders, union minister Nityanad Rai, deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary and party members from Mithilanchal districts.

"Our government announced internships — Rs 4,000 per month for Class 12 pass students, Rs 5,000 for diploma holders, and Rs 6,000 for graduates. We made electricity up to 125 units free for 1.67 crore households. The honorarium of ASHA workers has been raised from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000," he said.

(With agency inputs)

EC officials to review poll preparedness in Bihar on Oct 4-5

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Election Commission officials are expected to visit Bihar next weekend to review the preparedness for the state's Assembly elections, indicating that the countdown for the official announcement on the poll schedule has started.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners (ECs) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi are expected to be in Patna on October 4 and 5, where they will meet the state chief electoral officer (CEO) and others.

The schedule for the Bihar polls is likely to be announced any time after October 5.

On October 3, officials said, a meeting of general, police, and expenditure observers appointed by the EC is scheduled at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management in Delhi's Dwarka.

The Election Commissioner's visit to Bihar will come days after the publication of the final voters' list in the state following the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The draft list contained 7.24 crore voters, while around 65 lakh names were omitted for various reasons.

The final list is prepared after deciding on the claims and objections submitted till September 1.

IAS officer removed after tech glitches at PM's Raj rally

JAIPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan government has placed senior IAS officer Archana Singh, secretary in the Department of Information Technology and Communication, on an awaiting posting order (APO).

The Department of Personnel order cited "administrative reasons" for the move; however, officials familiar with the matter said the move came in the wake of a major technical glitch during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in Banswara on Thursday.

When the PM reached the stage in Napla village, the audio system functioned, but the video screens went blank for nearly 10 minutes.

Earlier, repeated audio-visual disruptions affected the PM's proposed interaction with farmers, officials familiar with the development said. The technical operations for the event were under purview of the department, which Singh was heading.

'Overcrowding': Eyewitnesses recount Karur stampede horror

Say trouble began after crowd surged forward to see Vijay

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The overcrowded rally of TVK chief Vijay in Tamil Nadu's Karur district on Saturday. PTI

A man consoles an injured woman after a stampede-like situation occurred during Vijay's rally in Karur district. PTI

Overcrowding is being cited as the primary reason after at least 38 people were killed in a stampede-like situation at a public rally of TVK chief Vijay in Tamil Nadu's Karur on Saturday evening. As per eyewitnesses, trouble began after a section of the crowd surged forward to catch a glimpse of the actor.

"I also fainted but regained my consciousness sometime later. Three people who were bundled into the ambulance that rushed to the hospital unfortunately died. I can't believe I am alive," said Sunitha with a choked voice.

She is among the survivors of the deadly stampede. Thousands of people gathered at the Light House roundtana in the textile town to catch a glimpse of Vijay, who was delayed for the rally.

One could only hear the wails of women and hugging their relatives after losing their children and loved ones at the Karur government hospital, with ambulances rushing into the premises every two minutes.

Sunitha, who was at the venue, said people waited hours to catch a glimpse of their favourite actor. "People didn't stand at one place, and kept chasing the bus in which Vijay was travelling. That is when they started pushing the others. Many people missed their footwear and fell to the ground. But, luckily, I didn't go any further," she said.

"I came to a place that was relatively less crowded, but I could hear people screaming and see them rushing towards the vehicle. Four people, including me, were put in an ambulance. Only I survived," she added.

Women were present in larger numbers at the rally, and many of them had brought their children.

Another eyewitness said as Vijay started speaking, power supply was cut off. This has been a practice since some of his fans attempted to climb electric poles to catch a glimpse of him. This led to an escalation of chaos.

"Police had to resort to lathicharge to bring the crowd under control. I am still unable to believe what has happened at the rally," the eyewitness said, adding that they could hear ambulance sirens constantly.

He added that Vijay probably cut short his speech, sensing that something was wrong.

In fact, Vijay did arrange an ambulance for a few people who fell unconscious from atop the bus, but he continued to speak and even thanked the police for facilitating his entry into Karur. "Without the police's help, I would not have come and addressed the rally here," he said.

Hospital sources said doctors from Salem, Tiruchirapalli, and Namakkal districts will join them to treat the injured.

MHA seeks report from TN

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday spoke with Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi and Chief Minister M K Stalin to take stock of the situation following a stampede in Karur and assured them of all possible central assistance to deal with the situation, sources said.

The Union home ministry also sought a report from the Tamil Nadu government on the incident, sources said.

DROUPADI MURMU
President

"Anguished to know about the tragic loss of lives in a stampede-like unfortunate incident in Karur district. I extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for early recovery of those injured.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"The unfortunate incident during a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones.

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president

"Deeply distressed by the unfortunate and tragic stampede at a political rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, which claimed the lives of several innocent people.

Naidu has turned 'RSS man': Sharmila on temple plan

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee chief Y S Sharmila on Saturday strongly criticised the state government's decision to construct 5,000 Lord Venkateswara temples in Dalit colonies using Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) funds.

Speaking to reporters in Vijayawada, she called the move—recently announced by Chief Minister and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu—an attempt to divert public attention from pressing issues and demanded that the plan be immediately withdrawn.

"Building temples by pushing RSS ideology against the Constitution is not right," Sharmila said.

She added, "If temples are built in Dalit colonies, who will serve as priests? Brahmins? Or will Dalits themselves be allowed to conduct rituals? Naidu has turned into an 'RSS man'. India is a confluence of religions. But Naidu is trying to implement the RSS agenda."

AFSPA extended for six more months in 3 dists of Assam

GUWAHATI, PTI: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, was extended in three districts of Assam for six more months from October 1, according to a notification issued on Saturday.

The state government had recommended to the Centre that the 'Disturbed Area' status under the AFSPA be extended in Tinsukia, Charaideo, and Sivasagar districts for an additional period of six months. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs agreed with the government's view, and the extension was granted, it said.

ECO MILESTONE

Himachal's Cold Desert gets Unesco tag

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh is now a part of Unesco's global network of designated biosphere reserves showcasing sustainable ways of living with nature, the UN body announced on Saturday.

Perched high in the trans-Himalayan region of northern India, the reserve spans approximately 7,770 square km across the dramatic landscapes of Lahaul–Spiti district and includes Pin Valley National Park, Kibber and Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary.

With over 700 biosphere reserves in 130-plus countries, over 5% of the Earth's land area, these sites serve as models for balancing conservation and development, a blueprint the world urgently needs, Unesco says.

The announcement on 29 new sites comes at the end of the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves at Hangzhou in China between September 22 and September 26.

"With this addition, India now proudly has 13 biospheres listed in Unesco's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which reflects India's commitment towards biodiversity conservation and community-led sustainable development," Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in a social media post.

With altitudes ranging from 3,300 to 6,600 m, this fragile cold desert ecosystem supports hardy alpine grasses, medicinal herbs, and rare stands of willow-leaved seabuckthorn, Himalayan birch, and Persian juniper. It harbours 732 species of vascular plants, including 30 endemics and 157 near-endemics of the Indian Himalayas.

Iconic fauna include the snow leopard, Himalayan ibex, blue sheep, Himalayan wolf and rich bird life such as the Himalayan snow cock and golden eagle.

Around 12,000 inhabitants live in scattered villages, practicing traditional pastoralism, yak and goat herding, barley and pea farming.

"As India's first high-altitude cold desert biosphere reserve, it highlights the urgent need to safeguard mountain ecosystems facing tourism pressures and climate change," Unesco said in a statement.

YSRCP's Digital Book to record TDP's 'injustices'

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Opposition YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh has launched a website called "Digital Book" to systematically document alleged injustices by the ruling dispensation against its workers.

The platform reportedly allows anyone to directly upload details of alleged harassment to be recorded and preserved in a digital repository.

Beyond the website, the party has said it has established an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) call facility for workers and victims to register their grievances over the phone.

The YSRCP leadership has asserted that these records were not symbolic gestures but would serve as the foundation for concrete action.

The party said once it returned to power, a special investigation team would be formed to probe every documented incident.

Since the TDP-led NDA government assumed power in Andhra Pradesh, the YSRCP has consistently alleged political vendetta, claiming that many of its workers—particularly social media activists—have been targeted, arrested, and imprisoned under what they say is a "Red Book Rule".

State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, when he was in Opposition, famously carried a "Red Book" in which he claimed to have documented all alleged atrocities committed by the then-YSRCP government against TDP leaders and workers between 2019 and 2024.

"Even if someone has retired, moved out of the state, or lives overseas, we will pursue each case, bring the culprits before the law, and deliver justice to the victims," said YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy while launching the "Digital Book" at a party meeting recently.

CLOUDS OF INSTABILITY US could assist Afghan factions who are opposed to the Taliban

Trump's desire to reclaim Bagram airbase may fuel regional tensions

SHARAT SABHARWAL

Since its takeover in August 2021, the second Taliban regime, though exclusionary and ultra-orthodox, has maintained relative stability in Afghanistan. It has kept its nemesis – the Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) – largely at bay. However, clouds of instability are now emerging over Afghanistan.

President Donald Trump, whose first administration had concluded the one-sided Doha Agreement with the Taliban in 2020 for the exit of US forces from Afghanistan, has often blamed former President Joe Biden for the disorderly withdrawal in August 2021. He has also criticised him for abandoning the Bagram airbase to the Taliban, claiming that the Chinese have taken it over – a claim denied by the Taliban. Originally built in the 1950s with Soviet assistance for the Afghan air force, the Bagram base was expanded during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It was further upgraded by the Americans and served as their largest military base in Afghanistan during the War on Terror. Located north of Kabul, Bagram has a strategic location in proximity to Iran, Pakistan, Central Asia and China.

Trump has said recently that his administration is trying to get Bagram back from the Taliban who, he said, "need things from us", thereby hinting at a possible quid pro quo. He also threatened the Taliban with unspecified "bad things" if they did not concede the US demand, which he justified by citing Bagram's proximity to "where China makes its nuclear weapons". A US delegation led by Adam Boehler, the US Special Envoy for Hostage Response, accompanied by Zalmay Khalilzad, former US Special Representative for Afghanistan, was in Kabul recently to discuss prisoners' exchange and bilateral relations. However, it is not clear if Bagram came up during the visit. The Taliban have rejected Trump's demand, stating that Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity are of the utmost importance. They have also recalled that under the Doha Agreement, the US pledged not to use or threaten force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Afghanistan.

To what extent Trump would pursue the matter in the face of Taliban resistance is difficult to say. He had equally fervently voiced his desire to take Greenland and the Panama Canal, but has not persisted with it. The Taliban could bargain for recognition and large-scale material and financial assistance in any negotiations on the issue. However, the US presence in Bagram would go against their core ideology. After all, they fought against all odds to rid Afghanistan of foreign forces. It would also annoy China, which has closely engaged with the Taliban, Iran and Russia, the only country that has formally recognised the Taliban government.

Reacting to Trump's demand, China has emphasised Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. A compromise on Bagram with the US could also trigger desertions from the Taliban ranks to IS-K. Therefore, any gains in return for handing over Bagram to the Americans would amount to a pyrrhic victory for the Taliban.

What are the "bad things" that Trump could do to the Taliban? A ground offensive to take Bagram would be ironical for a man who signed a lop-sided deal in 2020 to exit Afghanistan. Retaining the airbase against the wishes of the Taliban would be a daunting task. US assistance to Afghanistan has nearly dried up since Trump's return to power. He could, however, squeeze financial and material assistance from other international sources. He could also encourage and assist Afghan factions opposed to the Taliban and now largely in exile.

A US F-16 aircraft takes off for a night mission at the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. REUTERS FILE

Even as Trump has raised the pitch on Bagram, Pakistan is moving towards a breaking point with the Taliban. Paradoxically, the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, aided and abetted by Pakistan, has added to Pakistan's security nightmare. Pakistan alleges that the mounting terror attacks in its tribal belt and Balochistan are carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch insurgents from Afghan soil – a charge denied by the Taliban. Coercive measures by Pakistan, such as restrictions on Afghan trade, expulsion of a large number of Afghans and air raids against purported TTP targets, have failed to change the situation. Pakistan has, of late, said that as many as 70% of those involved in TTP attacks in its territory are Afghans. It knows that it cannot succeed militarily in Afghanistan, where the mighty Soviet army and the US-led Nato forces failed to prevail. Bereft of viable options, it may eventually resort to what it has done repeatedly in the past – try to destabilise Taliban regime. There are telltale signs of Pakistan trying to build contacts with Afghan leaders and groups opposed to the Taliban. A proposed meeting of Afghan exiles in Islamabad last month under the aegis of an institute with close links to the army, postponed at the last minute, was a pointer in this direction. The Taliban have accused Pakistan of sheltering IS-K militants.

Could Trump, miffed with the Taliban on the Bagram issue, but increasingly enamoured of Pakistan, and the Pakistani establishment, join hands in destabilising the Taliban? The move would be utterly short-sighted, but not unprecedented in the history of the transactional relationship between the two sides.

India has had civilisational links with the Afghans. Instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan have adversely impacted India. Ideally, India would like to see a stable, democratic, inclusive and moderate Afghanistan. However, this remains a distant goal because of Afghanistan's internal dynamics and the short-sighted policies of major powers and Pakistan over the years. In the meantime, India cannot afford to abandon Afghanistan. Therefore, it acted nimble-footedly after the Taliban victory in 2021 to successfully set up a working relationship with them by, inter alia, providing humanitarian assistance and expressing willingness to provide developmental aid. If there is again a meltdown in Afghanistan, India would have to act similarly to safeguard its interests.

(The writer is a former High Commissioner to Pakistan and author of India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship)

India joins BRICS nations to condemn Israeli airstrike in Qatar

'A grave breach of international law, including the UN Charter'

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has joined Brazil, Russia, and the other BRICS nations in condemning Israel's recent attack on Qatar as well as its persistent military offensive in Gaza.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hosted a meeting of the BRICS foreign ministers on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He and the other BRICS ministers condemned Israel's armed attack on Qatar on September 9.

They noted that the attack constituted a flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty, a grave breach of international law, including the UN Charter, and a threat to regional and international peace and security.

At least five representatives of Hamas were killed when Israel carried out an airstrike on the political office of the Sunni Islamist Palestinian nationalist militia in a residential compound in Doha on September 9.

Hamas claimed that its negotiators were in Doha to discuss the latest US proposal for a ceasefire between itself and the Israeli Defence Force in the Gaza Strip. The negotiators, however, survived the attack. Hamas has been hosting a political office in Doha since 2012.

The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on September 10 stated that India was deeply concerned by the Israeli strike and its impact on the security situation in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed "deep concerns".

Modi had a phone call with the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, on September 10. He condemned the violation of the sovereignty of the State of Qatar, in a rare criticism of an action by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in Israel.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (right) meets his Indonesian counterpart Sugiono ahead of the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting in New York City on Saturday. PTI

Leh sees first curfew break after violent protests

L-G chairs security meeting to assess law & order situation

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The curfew was relaxed for the first time on Saturday in Leh, three days after violent protests demanding statehood for Ladakh and Sixth Schedule protections left four people dead and over 70 injured.

Authorities announced a phased relaxation to provide temporary relief to residents. The curfew was lifted in the Old City from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, followed by the New Area from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Police officials said the situation would be reviewed before announcing further relaxations.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the law and order situation across the Union Territory. The meeting emphasised heightened vigilance, closer coordination between security agencies, and proactive measures to ensure peace and public order.

The unrest has been further stoked by the detention of renowned climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act (NSA). Wangchuk, a Ramon Magsaysay Award winner celebrated for his environmental innovations, was arrested on Friday and shifted to Jodhpur. His detention has triggered widespread outrage, with political parties and civil society groups expressing concern.

According to local leaders involved in the agitation, over 50 individuals have been detained since the clashes began.

The protests, which escalated into violence on Wednesday, were largely led by young activists, many of them first-time demonstrators. The restoration of Ladakh's statehood and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which provides special protections to tribal communities, are at the heart of their demands.

Since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Ladakh has been carved out as a separate Union Territory, but without an elected legislature. While the move initially sparked celebrations in Leh, discontent soon spread as residents feared losing land, jobs, and cultural identity.

The demand for the statehood and constitutional safeguards has been at the forefront of Ladakh's politics ever since.

PM unveils Rs 50,000 cr growth projects

JHARSUGUDA (ODISHA), PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 50,000 crore across telecommunications, railways, higher education, healthcare, skill development, and rural housing sectors.

The prime minister laid the foundation stone for Rs 11,000 crore infrastructure expansion projects in eight IITs—Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Jodhpur, Patna and Indore—to increase 12,000 seats over the next four years.

Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of a rail flyover between Sambalpur City and Sarala at an investment of Rs 273 crore and for the setting up of a semiconductor and electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) park in collaboration with IIT-Bhubaneswar.

The prime minister launched the MERITE (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education) scheme, designed to improve quality, equity, research, and innovation in 275 state engineering and polytechnic institutions across the country.

The prime minister also launched the Odisha Skill Development Project Phase-II, which will establish world skill centres at an investment of Rs 1,979 crore in Sambalpur and Berhampur, covering emerging sectors such as agritech, renewable energy, retail, marine, and hospitality.

Five ITIs will be upgraded into 'Utkarsh ITIs', 25 ITIs will be developed as Centres of Excellence, while a new Precision Engineering Building will provide advanced technical training.

To enhance digital education in the state, the PM dedicated Wi-Fi facilities across 130 higher education institutions at a cost of Rs 90 crore, providing free daily data access to benefit more than 2.5 lakh students.

This was the PM's sixth visit to Odisha since the BJP came to power in the state in June 2024.

'Swadeshi' 4G network

The prime minister also inaugurated BSNL's 'Swadeshi' 4G stack, marking India's entry into a coveted league of nations that manufacture telecom equipment.

PM Modi commissioned more than 97,500 4G telecom towers built with BSNL's 'swadeshi' technology at a cost of Rs 37,000 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitates a beneficiary during the foundation stone laying and inauguration of various development projects at a public rally in Jharsuguda. PTI

DEVELOPMENT PUSH

- **Total investment:** Rs 50,000 cr across rail, education, health, telecom & housing
- **IIT boost:** Rs 11,000 cr to expand 8 IITs; 12,000 new seats
- **Skill mission:** Rs 1,979 cr for new skill hubs; MERITE launched for 275 tech institutes
- **Health upgrade:** Rs 3,000 cr to modernise 2 major medical colleges in Odisha
- **Infra & connectivity:** New Amrit Bharat Express; Rs 1,400 cr in rail upgrades; free campus Wi-Fi

Muslim cleric among 9 held after poster-protest violence

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Muslim cleric and Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief Maulana Touqir Raza was on Saturday arrested along with eight others in connection with Friday's violence over "I love Mohammed" posters in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly town, even as Chief Minister Adityanath said his government would teach the trouble-mongers a lesson in the "language they understand".

A local court sent Raza and the other accused to judicial custody for 14 days.

Police sources said 10 cases were registered in different police stations in connection with the violence, and Raza was charged with rioting and inciting violence.

Meanwhile, internet services were suspended in Bareilly for 48 hours. Raza had called for protest against the alleged police action against some people after they pasted "I love Mohammed" posters in some parts of the state.

District officials said 39 people were arrested in connection with Friday's violence.

"We have CCTV footage, and we are trying to identify the trouble-mongers," said a senior police official in Bareilly. He said 22 cops were injured in the stone-pelting by the protesters.

The official said the police had recovered live cartridges, blades, and country-made pistols from the Islamia Campus: "We are trying to identify who was behind the violence."

Meanwhile, CM Adityanath said at an event here that the cleric had "forgotten" whose regime was there in the state.

Hundreds who gathered outside a mosque in Bareilly after the special Friday prayers and tried to march toward the Islamia Ground were stopped by the police. The crowd allegedly pelted stones and also damaged a few vehicles, prompting the police to resort to lathi charge to disperse them.

TRAVEL BOOM

India's tourism earnings cross $35 b

AMRITA MADHUKALYA,
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's international tourist arrivals (ITAs) increased by 8.89% over last year, according to data published in a compendium released by the government on Saturday.

Tourism in India accounts for 1.40% of total international arrivals and contributes 2.02% to worldwide tourism receipts, data shows. In 2024, India's Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism amounted to US $35.016 billion as against US $32.189 billion in 2023.

The dataset shows that the countries that accounted for the largest number of tourist arrivals in 2024 are France, Spain, United States, Turkey, Italy, Mexico, China, United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan.

Over 20.57 million foreign tourists visited India in 2024, representing an 8.89% increase from 2023 and a 14.82% rise from 2019, the last pre-pandemic benchmark year. Among these, 10.62 million arrivals were of Non-Resident Indians, which is an increase of 13.22% over 2023 and a rise of 52.15% compared to the pre-pandemic level of 2019. Additionally, 30.89 million Indians travelled abroad in 2024, representing a 10.79% increase over 2023.

Uttar Pradesh (646.81 million), Tamil Nadu (306.84 million), and Maharashtra (3.71 million) recorded the highest number of international tourist visits.

Among the Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments, Taj Mahal led in visitor numbers for both domestic (6.26 million) and foreign (0.645 million) tourists. International visitors favoured Agra Fort (0.22 million) and Qutub Minar (0.22 million) following Taj Mahal.

Musi in spate, Hyderabad hit by floods

S N V SUDHIR,
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Musi River is in spate following incessant rains and the opening of gates at two major reservoirs, Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, in Hyderabad.

Continuous rainfall since Friday has triggered widespread inundation across the old city areas.

About 1,500 people living in low-lying areas were shifted to relief camps.

Floodwaters suddenly engulfed residential neighborhoods of Chaderghat, Musarambagh, Purana Pool, and Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), prompting officials to evacuate approximately 3,000 passengers from MGBS using ropes.

Several colonies, including Ambedkar Basti on both sides of the river, were submerged.

In Musanagar and Shankarnagar bastis, police forcibly evacuated families who refused to leave. The flooding has severely disrupted transportation networks.

Police halted vehicle movement on both bridges, creating traffic bottlenecks between Dilsukhnagar and Koti.

Emergency teams are coordinating relief efforts through drone deliveries of food and clean water to stranded residents.

In areas like Musa Nagar, Malakpet, families remain trapped on rooftops, receiving supplies via aerial drops. This marks the first major flooding in nearly five years to overwhelm the river.

Buses partially submerged in floodwater of the swollen Musi river after heavy rainfall, in Hyderabad. PTI

IN PERSPECTIVE

The unseen truth about global trust in news

Evidence reveals that trust in news is holding firm globally, contrary to media's self-portrayal

LUBA KASSOVA & RICHARD ADDY

Trust is the currency which makes democracies and societies function, the social glue that binds people and structures together. Undermining trust in the governance system, in institutions, in media and between people is an early step in any authoritarian's plan for destroying democracy.

Given that the news media's narrative about itself is important in shaping public opinion, it is noteworthy that for over a decade, global news media have largely argued that trust in news is declining. AKAS' analysis of over 500,000 online news articles published since January 2020, using the GDELT global news database, revealed that terms emphasising declining trust in news featured six times more frequently than those suggesting stability or increased trust.

To test the collective wisdom further for World News Day aimed at amplifying the value of fact-based journalism, we asked ChatGPT to summarise the global trend for trust in news in the last five years. Its answer confirmed a negative lens, stating that global trust in news had generally declined due to sustained erosion driven by "misinformation, political polarisation and news avoidance."

In short, this narrative of decline is among the least contested and most repeated beliefs in journalism. But is it true? To find out, we interrogated seven leading surveys covering news trends.

The analysis discovered that blanket statements about a decline in global trust in news are inherently inaccurate and overly negative. Whilst in the US, trust in news has collapsed since the 1970s, this is not reflected much in the rest of the world, especially in the last five years when trust in news has often risen. What this reflects instead is a tendency for media to project trends observed in the US as global phenomena.

Over the last decade, the UK public's trust in news media has been amongst the lowest. However, since 2020, UK trust levels have stabilised or even crept up. Moreover, despite being low, Ipsos' Veracity Index, corroborated by research from YouGov, shows that the UK public's trust in journalists has risen from 23% in 2020 to 27% currently.

AKAS analysis of Reuters Institute's Digital News Report (DNR), Edelman Trust Barometer, The World Values Survey and Eurobarometer shows two distinct trends in trust in news in the last decade, with the start of the Covid pandemic being a watershed moment.

Between 2015 and 2020, the trend in trust in news was inconclusive: two of the sources broadly showed a decline, while the other two generally showed rises. The global picture has been more positive in the last five years, with all three sources measuring trust since 2020 showing stable or increasing public trust in news. For example, in 2025, the Edelman Trust Barometer reported an average trust in media of 52% across 28 countries - the highest ever recorded by Edelman.

Trust in news is amongst the highest in the Nordic countries. The DNR reveals that 67% of adults in Finland and 56% in Denmark trust news most of the time, with trust increasing by 11 and 10 percentage points, respectively, since 2020. This success story gets lost in the prevalent yet unfounded negative narratives. Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Professor of Communication at the University of Copenhagen, highlights three factors contributing to the consistently high trust in Nordic media: higher trust levels between people in the region, greater trust in institutions, and a smaller proportion of people using social media as their main news source.

"The relatively stronger connection Nordic publishers have been able to earn and maintain helps underpin trust as, when it comes to news, people tend to trust outlets they routinely use," concludes Nielsen.

The DNR and Edelman also show high trust in news in other countries since 2000 including in Nigeria and Kenya. The 2025 DNR shows 68% of adults in Nigeria and 65% in Kenya trust the news most of the time, a 15-percentage point increase for Kenya since 2020. Pamella Sittoni, Public Editor at The Nation Media Group in Kenya, attributes the rise in media trust in part to a history of credible private media considered relatively independent from state influence, and in part to a large population of educated young people who cross-check what they read on social media or websites by visiting traditional trusted sources. "There's been considerable reduction of trust in the government and even in the now fragmented religious groups, which has left the media as the key purveyor of truth," she says.

Undoubtedly, there is much that news media can do better to grow public trust, but the blanket claim that global trust in news is in decline is erroneous and plays into authoritarians' plans to destroy trust in independent media. To protect truth and democracy we must resist regurgitating unduly negative interpretations and just turn to the facts.

(Luba Kassova is a media expert, researcher, journalist and co-founder of AKAS, who covers social and media trends, democracy, AI and equality. Richard Addy is a co-founder of AKAS, strategist and international media consultant)

(DH is part of the global initiative to mark World News Day on September 28, and this article is the 6th in a series published as part of this initiative)

US-North Korea talks may take place this year: Seoul official

SEOUL, AFP: A meeting between North Korea and the United States on the sidelines of this year's APEC summit in South Korea "cannot be ruled out", according to a Seoul foreign ministry official.

Ties between Pyongyang and Washington have been in the deep freeze since a high-profile summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in 2019 collapsed over sanctions relief and Pyongyang's nuclear concessions.

Since then, North Korea has repeatedly declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear state, though Kim has recently signalled willingness to reopen a dialogue with Washington.

A high-ranking official in South Korea's foreign ministry said on Friday in New York that such talks could take place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, due to start in late October. "We cannot rule out the possibility," the official said when asked about the prospective meeting.

Trump is expected to attend the forum, which will take place in the South Korean city of Gyeongju.

Russia warns Nato of 'decisive response'

Moscow accuses West of provocation after Trump backs tougher stance

UNITED NATIONS, REUTERS/AFP

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned Nato and the European Union on Saturday that "any aggression against my country will be met with a decisive response."

As Russia's war continues in Ukraine, tensions have mounted along Nato's eastern flank in recent weeks, with Estonia accusing Moscow of sending three fighter jets into its airspace and Nato reporting the downing of Russian drones over Poland. "Russia is being accused of almost planning to attack the North Atlantic Alliance and European Union countries. President Putin has repeatedly debunked these provocations," Lavrov told the UN General Assembly.

US President Donald Trump said this week he endorsed the idea of shooting down Russian jets that violate Nato airspace, part of a rhetorical shift that saw him mock Russia's military performance in Ukraine and describe it as a paper tiger. The US also told the UN Security Council it would "defend every inch of Nato territory."

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addresses the 80th United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York City on Saturday. REUTERS

Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister for over two decades, said Moscow was alarmed by remarks from some EU and Nato politicians predicting a looming World War Three as a "likely scenario."

"These figures are undermining any efforts to find a fair balance of interests among all members of the international community by trying to impose their unilateral approaches on everyone else," he said.

On Wednesday, Lavrov met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

"Russia has never had and does not have any such intentions. However, any aggression against my country will be met with a decisive response," Lavrov reiterated in his address. Several Nato countries have accused Russian jets and drones of violating their airspace in recent weeks, saying Moscow is testing the alliance. Asked on Tuesday whether Nato states should shoot down Russian aircraft that cross into their skies, Trump said: "Yes, I do."

Trump had once highlighted his warm ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, even inviting him last month for talks in Alaska, ending Putin's ostracisation by the West since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Trump asks SC to uphold order on birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump's administration is asking the Supreme Court to uphold his birthright citizenship order, declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

The appeal, shared with The Associated Press on Saturday, sets in motion a process at the high court that could lead to a definitive ruling from the justices by early summer on whether the citizenship restrictions are constitutional. Lower-court judges have so far blocked them from taking effect anywhere.

The Justice Department's petition has been shared with lawyers for parties challenging the order, but is not yet docketed at the Supreme Court. "The lower court's decisions invalidated a policy of prime importance to the president and his administration in a manner that undermines our border security," Solicitor General D John Sauer wrote.

"Those decisions confer, without lawful justification, the privilege of American citizenship on hundreds of thousands of unqualified people."

US revokes visa for Colombian president

Petro urged American soldiers to disobey Trump

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Tensions between the United States and Colombia have escalated with the State Department announcing it was revoking a visa for Gustavo Petro, president of the Latin American country, after he participated in a New York protest where he called on American soldiers to disobey President Trump's orders.

The department said on social media that "we will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions."

Petro was visiting for the annual United Nations General Assembly.

During a nearby protest Friday over the war in Gaza, he said, "I ask all the soldiers of the United States' army, don't point your rifles against humanity" and "disobey the orders of Trump." It was unclear if the decision forced Petro, who returned to Colombia on Saturday, to leave the United States earlier than expected.

Gustavo Petro

The State Department did not answer questions about whether the revocation would affect future visits. Petro on Saturday dismissed the US decision to revoke his visa and accused Washington of violating international law.

"I no longer have a visa to travel to the United States. I don't care. I don't need a visa ... because I'm not only a Colombian citizen but a European citizen, and I truly consider myself a free person in the world," Petro said on social media.

"Revoking it for denouncing genocide shows the US no longer respects international law," he added in a post on X.

Trump orders deployment of troops to Portland, ICE facilities

REUTERS: US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he was directing Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth to send troops to Portland, Oregon, to protect federal immigration facilities against "domestic terrorists", saying he was authorising them to use "full force, if necessary."

Ordering the latest crackdown on a Democrat-led city, Trump said in a social media post that he was directing Hegseth "to provide all necessary troops to protect war-ravaged Portland and any of our ICE facilities under siege from attack by Antifa and other domestic terrorists." Portland Mayor Keith Wilson responded: "The number of necessary troops is zero, in Portland and any other American city. The president will not find lawlessness or violence here unless he plans to perpetrate it."

Wilson and other local leaders on Friday urged calm in the face of an apparent influx of federal officers.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A cosplayer depicting a character from Netflix series "Bridgerton" greets visitors during a Guinness World Record bid for the largest gathering of people dressed as screen characters in London on Saturday. REUTERS

Denmark reports renewed drone sightings at military facilities

▸ The Danish defence ministry said Saturday that "drones have been observed at several of Danish defence facilities" overnight Friday into Saturday. The renewed drone sightings come after there were several drone sightings in the Nordic country earlier this week, with some of them temporarily shutting down Danish airports, AP/PTI reports from Copenhagen (Denmark).

The Danish defence ministry did not say where exactly the drones were seen, but several local media reported that one or more were seen near or above the military Karup Air Base. Danish public broadcaster DR reported that there were drones in the air both inside and outside the fence of the air base at around 8 pm, quoting Simon Skelkjær, the duty manager at the Central and West Jutland Police. DR said that for a period of time, the airspace was closed to civil air traffic. The repeated unexplained drone activity, including over four Danish airports overnight Wednesday into Thursday and a similar incident at Copenhagen Airport, has raised concerns about security in northern Europe amid suspected growing Russian aggression.

No Trump plan received: Hamas

▸ Hamas has not received US President Donald Trump's Gaza ceasefire plan, the Palestinian group which runs the enclave, said on Saturday as Israeli forces expanded their assault on Gaza City, Reuters reports.

The comments came after Israeli newspaper Haaretz cited sources saying Hamas had agreed in principle to release all the Israeli hostages it holds in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops under Trump's plan.

Also included in the proposal were the end of Hamas rule in Gaza, and Israel agreeing not to annex the territory and drive out Palestinians living there, Haaretz reported.

Migrants wade through the sea to board a dinghy departing from France to cross the English Channel towards Britain, near Calais on Saturday. REUTERS

UN sanctions loom for Iran

▸ Sweeping UN sanctions loomed for Iran late Saturday for the first time in a decade, after last ditch nuclear talks with Western powers failed to produce a breakthrough, AFP reports from Tehran.

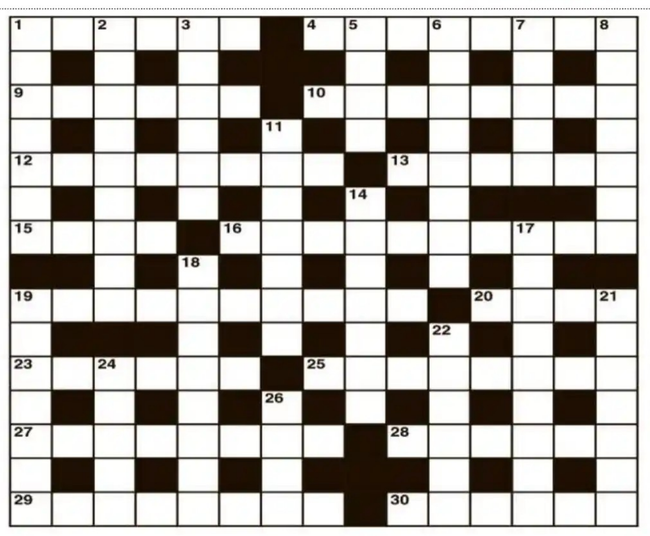
President Masoud Pezeshkian said the US had offered Iran only a short reprieve in return for handing over its whole stockpile of enriched uranium, an offer he described as unacceptable. An 11th-hour effort by Iran allies Russia and China to postpone the sanctions until April failed on the Security Council meeting, meaning they will go into effect on Saturday midnight.

Hezbollah refuses to disarm

▸ Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem said the group would not allow itself to be disarmed on Saturday as he addressed supporters marking one year since the killing by Israel of his predecessor Hassan Nasrallah, AFP reports from Beirut.

The charismatic leader was killed in an Israeli air strike on the southern suburbs of Beirut on September 27, 2024. Without Nasrallah and with much of its military capability destroyed by Israel, Hezbollah's grip on Lebanese politics has weakened, and Beirut has ordered the army to disarm the group. "We will never abandon our weapons, nor will we relinquish them," Qassem told supporters.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2647 ◆



ACROSS

1 Consecutively (2,1,3)
4 Invite trouble (3,3,2)
9 Ardent (6)
10 Novice (8)
12 Utterly weary (3-5)
13 Series of things to be done (6)
15 Wildcat with mottled coat (4)
16 The ultimate criterion (6,4)
19 Beyond reasonable limits (4,3,3)
20 Wound with knife (4)
23 Woven material (6)
25 Language intended to persuade (8)
27 If really necessary (2,1,5)
28 US moon-landing programme (6)
29 Industrious (8)
30 Empty (6)

DOWN

1 Unbeliever (7)
2 Haughtiness (9)
3 Source (6)
5 Measure taken (4)
6 Legitimate prey (4,4)
7 Talk continuously (3,2)
8 Row of houses in one block (7)
11 Zealous enthusiast (7)
14 To waste away (7)
17 Among other things (5,4)
18 Impressive (8)
19 Casual in manner (7)
21 Withdraw from commitment (4,3)
22 An imagined perfect state (6)
24 Rowdy punch-up (5)
26 Glance over quickly (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4007

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 9, I'll humour 10, In the m-ain 12, T-own 13, Ai-ling 14, Nois-OM-e 15, Grounding 17, I-tine-rant 18, Theatre 19, Reeled 20, Snub (rev) 23, Gets round 25, Uns-heat-he 26, Tops (rev) 27, Course (coarse) 29, M-and-ate 32, Tea dances 34, Un-settled 35, Clean up 36, B-lear-y 37, Od-er (rev) 38, Issue-less 39, Shake-down.

DOWN: 1, Si-t-ti-ght 2, Blows one's top 3, Positive 4, Er-ring 5, King size 6, Stinginess 7, Bet-imes 8, Un-beatable 11, Aro-ma 16, Natu-re 19, Rod 21, Not called for 22, Pea-nut 23, Get stuck in 24, Un-occupied 25, Use (ewes) 28, R-ose b-ush 29, Mist-rial 30, Endu-ring 31, Saunter 33, A-veR-s 34, Un-easy.

EASY PUZZLE

ACROSS: 9, Hexagonal 10, Terminate 12, Ache 13, Studio 14, Sucrose 15, Annoyance 17, Gradients 18, Trellis 19, Street 20, Sago 23, Elaborate 25, Amnesties 26, Prey 27, Smooth 29, Borstal 32, Obedience 34, Conflicts 35, Migrant 36, Candle 37, Safe 38, Narrators 39, Attentive.

DOWN: 1, Pheasant 2, Exchange rate 3, Instants 4, Pledge 5, Stronger 6, Crustacean 7, Biscuit 8, Recessions 11, Acorn 16, Yellow 19, Sue 21, Aristocratic 22, Astral 23, Employment 24, Ammunition 25, Ash 28, Overcast 29, Banality 30, Listener 31, Cicadas 33, Eager 34, Cancan.

SU DO KU X - 3690

			5	1			4	
2	9	4	7				1	
			2	8		3		
			3					
3	4	5			6			
						5		1
	6		1					2
	7						9	

SOLUTION TO 3689

6	5	4	9	7	8	2	1	3
2	8	9	1	5	3	7	6	4
3	7	1	2	4	6	9	5	8
7	9	8	3	6	5	1	4	2
5	4	3	7	2	1	6	8	9
1	2	6	8	9	4	3	7	5
9	6	7	4	8	2	5	3	1
8	1	2	5	3	7	4	9	6
4	3	5	6	1	9	8	2	7

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Rashmika-Kapil pair shoots down gold

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian shooters dominated the 10m air pistol mixed team event, clinching the top-two podium finishes as the hosts continued to shine in the ISSF Junior World Cup at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges, here on Saturday.

The pair of Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil, who recently won the men's and women's gold in 10m air pistol junior event at the the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan, joined forces to hog the limelight on day three by taking the top spot in air pistol mixed team event.

The duo defeated the other Indian pair, Vanshika Chaudhary and Antony Jonathan Gavin, 16-10 in the title round.

The Spanish pair of Ines Ortega Castro and Lucas Sanchez defeated Iran's Parimah Amiri and Mohammadreza Ahmadi 16-14 to take the bronze.

It was a start-to-finish domination by Rashmika and Kapil, who topped the qualification round en route to the four-team final with an aggregate of 582. Both shot 291 each as the Vanshika-Gavin pair was second entering the final, aggregating 578 (287+291).

In the air pistol mixed team event, the top-two finishers in the preliminary round compete for gold, while the next two fight for the bronze.

The final turned out to be a one-sided affair with Rashmika and Kapil taking an early lead.

Gavin, the 16-year-old who stole the limelight on Friday while winning the men's 10m air pistol title with a flawless performance, was erratic with his scores swaying wildly.

Siddhanth, Mihika take home titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Siddhanth M and Mihika Udupa clinched the U-13 singles boys' and girls' singles titles respectively in the 8th JTTA State-ranking table tennis tournament at the BMS Engineering College here on Saturday.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

Siddhanth started off on a strong note to take the first game 11-4 over Suchet C Dharennava. It was no looking back since as he scripted a straight-forward three-game win.

In the corresponding girls' final, Mihika was pushed to four games but the eventual champion held her nerve to come through 14-12, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6 to take the top prize.

Results: All finals: U-13: Boys: Siddhanth M bt Suchet C Dharennavar 11-4, 11-5, 12-10.
Girls: Mihika Udupa bt Aadhya M 14-12, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6.

Siddhanth M (left) and Mihika Udupa pose with their spoils.

ON TV

CRICKET
Asia Cup Final: India vs Pakistan (8 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1**, **Sony LIV.**

FOOTBALL
EPL: Aston Villa vs Fulham (6:30 pm), Newcastle vs Arsenal (9 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**.
La Liga: Rayo Vallecano vs Sevilla (5:30 pm), Elche vs Celta Vigo (7:45 pm), Barcelona vs Real Sociedad (10 pm), Real Betis vs Osasuna (12:30 am, Monday). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

GOLF
Ryder Cup: Day 3 (9:30 pm). **LIVE** on FanCode.

SWIMMING
Asian Aquatics C'ships: Day 1 (6 pm finals). **LIVE** on **DD Sports**.

PARA ATHLETICS
World C'ships: Day 2 (9:30 pm). **LIVE** on **DD Sports.**

As India and Pakistan clash in an Asia Cup final for first time...

More than just the title at stake

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

It's taken 41 years and 17 editions, but the first India-Pakistan final in an Asia Cup is finally here. Touted as a three-match bilateral series within the larger contours of a continental tournament, the organisers' fervent prayers have been answered with a third successive Sunday confrontation, this time for the symbol of ultimate supremacy in Asian cricket.

This T20 Asia Cup has been anything but a straightforward cricketing spectacle. The tragedy of April 22 has grabbed centrestage with India refusing to even look their Pakistani counterparts in the eye, let alone shake hands or exchange pleasantries. Pakistan haven't taken to the perceived slight kindly, using bitter words and provocative gestures as well as an untenable boycott threat to make their point.

There's been an enquiry into a match referee's (Andy Pycroft) conduct, and Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Pakistanis Sahibzada Farhan and Shaheen Shah Afridi have appeared before the officials for various deemed infractions. Cricket has almost taken a back seat but despite the tetchy build-up and the inevitable attendant undercurrents, it's cricket that will be in stark focus at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium once Suryakumar and Salman Agha walk out for the toss.

All-win India were given an almighty scare by Sri Lanka on Friday night in a match that held little more than statistical significance. While the bowling did cop serious punishment from the excellent Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Perera, the pace attack comprised bowlers who are unlikely to figure in the final. Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana conceded 100 of Sri Lanka's 202 runs in just eight overs; Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya won't be as generous. India will fret over the fitness of Pandya, who left the field after the second over against Sri Lanka, and red-hot opener Abhishek Sharma, who walked off midway through the tenth. Bowling coach Morne Morkel appeared to settle the debate by saying both were afflicted by cramps, understandable given how hot it has been this deep into September.

Whatever fragilities Pakistan might have spotted in India's second-string bowling attack will be offset by their own tribulations with the bat. Nothing illustrated their woes more than the virtual semifinal against Bangladesh, when they slumped to 49 for five in the 11th over before the lower middle order and their versatile bowling bailed them out. More than anyone else, they will be aware that India won't bestow on them the same largesse that Jaker Ali's Bangladeshis, decidedly out of sorts, did.

Despite their 6-0 record in the tournament, India are yet to produce the perfect game. They boast the two highest totals of the event and five of the six highest Powerplay tallies, much of it due to Abhishek's unfettered ball-bashing. The left-hander has aggregated 309 runs and is running on a streak of three blazing half-centuries, but he will be well within his rights to expect more from his captain Suryakumar and the latter's deputy, Shubman Gill, Abhishek's opening partner.

Abhishek versus Shaheen Shah Afridi has been one of the showdowns of the tournament. The bat has unequivocally dominated that left-against-left faceoff. Abhishek's takedown of Afridi has been exhilarating as well as tone-setting. Pakistan will target payback for the 105-run opening salvo between Abhishek and Gill in the last game a week ago, which throws up a mouth-watering subtext to a contest that doesn't need any artificial props.

Having courted outrage and moral indignation, Pakistan have a grand chance to erase the shattering disappointments of the last fortnight. India know their two previous wins in Dubai will hold little meaning if they don't complete a hat-trick and wrap their hands around the Asia Cup for a record-extending ninth time.

High stakes? What do you think?

India vs Pakistan in T20Is

Overall record in Asia Cup

India		Pakistan
16	Mats	16
14	Won	9
2	Lost	7
87.5%	Win%	56.3%
1	Titles	0

Record since 2024

India		Pakistan
37	Mats	52
34	Won	24
3	Lost	27
0	No Res	1
91.9%	Win%	46.2%

Record in Dubai

India		Pakistan
14	Mats	37
10	Won	21
4	Lost	16
71.4%	Win%	56.8%

Head to Head

	Mat	Ind	Pak
Overall	15	12	3
In Dubai	5	3	2
In Asia Cup	5	4	1

Team Stats in Asia Cup-2025

India		Pak
6	Mat	6
6	Won	4
0	Lost	2
923	Runs Scored	877
9.31	Run Rate	7.43
18	Pace Wkts taken	23
8.70	Pace Econ	7.24
23	Spin Wkts taken	18
6.46	Spin Econ	6.10

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

India will hope all-rounder Hardik Pandya (left) and the in-form Abhishek Sharma, who walked off the field during the game against Sri Lanka, will recover in time for the final on Sunday. AFP/AP-PTI

Will India extend their winning run... and the hand?

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Even in the worst of times, India's cricketers have maintained cordial on-field relationships with their Pakistani counterparts. Clearly, that has changed since the heinous April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which claimed 26 lives.

A cursory shake of hands between Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav and Mohsin Naqvi, the president of the Asian Cricket Council but also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board and Pakistan's Minister of Interior, on September 9 triggered a chain of events marked by charges and counter-charges culminating in both teams filing official complaints with the International Cricket Council over code of conduct breaches.

Salman Agha

Suryakumar Yadav

Suryakumar and Salman Agha, the Pakistan captain, also exchanged a handshake that day at a pre-tournament press conference involving the skippers of all eight teams. That outrage in India following those twin handshakes resulted in India adopting a no-handshake policy against Pakistan, one that will be put to test on Sunday night, at the conclusion of the final.

In his capacity as the ACC boss, Naqvi will, by right, be at the presentation ceremony. Should India score a third consecutive victory in the tournament over Pakistan, Naqvi will be expected to present the trophy to Suryakumar as per convention. At best, it will be an awkward moment. Will Naqvi be even keen to carry out that responsibility? Will he extend his hand towards India's leader? And if so, how will Suryakumar respond?

In normal course, these aren't questions worth pondering over, but clearly, there is little normal about how things have unravelled.

Suryakumar dedicating India's Group A win on September 14 to India's Armed Forces and expressing solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam attack drove PCB, through Naqvi, to file charges against the Indian captain, necessitating a hearing by match referee Richie Richardson, who is said to have fined Suryakumar 30% of his match fee.

Naqvi has also twice in the last week posted videos of Cristiano Ronaldo making a celebratory plane crash gesture, a gesture Haris Rauf mimicked more than once during the Super Four faceoff on September 21. Rauf too, it is gathered, has attracted a financial sanction.

India's players have been guided by instructions from higher ups on what tack to embrace vis a vis Pakistan at the Asia Cup. It's incumbent upon the BCCI top brass, who will gather in Mumbai for the AGM, to outline what the approach should be during the presentation ceremony later in the night.

SALMAN AGHA
Pakistan captain

"Every individual has the right to express emotions. If we stop fast bowlers from showing emotions what's left then? I won't stop anyone as long as it is not disrespectful.

Quick wickets leave Secretary's XI frustrated

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's M Venkatesh starred with the ball with a five-wicket haul while Nikin Jose remained unbeaten on 58 at stumps to put KSCA Secretary's XI in a decent position but two quick wickets have left the door ajar after a closely contested day 2 against Madhya Pradesh in the final of Dr (Capt) Thimmappiah Memorial tournament here on Saturday.

At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, it was Venkatesh, who continued to cause all sorts of problems to the opposition. The pacer added three more to his overnight tally to finish with a 5/75 as MP were bowled out for 338 in 101.2 overs, resuming at their overnight score of 287/6.

Madhav P Bajaj assisted him with a 3/105.

In reply, Secretary's XI ended the day with 163 for the loss of four wickets, trailing MP by 175 runs. Skipper Jose continued his fine run, adding another fifty, while Tushar Singh made 35. Just when things were looking ominous for MP, the hosts lost Faizan Khan (1) and Samit Dravid (9) in quick succession. However, an unbeaten 28 from Dhruv P helped them to see the day unscathed.

KSCA Secretary's XI M Venkatesh picked up a superb five-wicket haul against Madhya Pradesh on day 2 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Brief scores: Madhya Pradesh: (O/n: 287/6) 338 all out in 101.2 overs (Yash Dubey 34, Himanshu Mantri 83, Shubham Sharma 66, Rishabh Chouhan 34, Venkatesh Iyer 48; Venkatesh M 5-75, Madhav P Bajaj 3-105) vs KSCA Secretary's XI: 163/4 in 58 overs (Nikin Jose SJ 58 n.o. Tushar Singh 35, Dhruv P 28 n.o.; Kumar Kartikeya 2-35).

Sinner survives, Swiatek sails into third round

BEIJING, AFP: Jannik Sinner survived a scare to sink French qualifier Terence Atmane 6-4, 7-5, 6-0 at the China Open on Saturday as Iga Swiatek launched her title bid.

The world No. 2 Italian Sinner will face 57th-ranked Fabian Marozsan of Hungary in the Beijing quarter-finals.

Sinner said that he lost a bit of concentration during the second set but quickly recovered to steamroll past the 68th-ranked Atmane in the deciding set.

In the women's draw, Swiatek breezed past home player Yuan Yue, cruising into round three with a 6-0, 6-3 victory.

The World No. 2 from Poland next faces Colombia's Camila Osorio, ranked 83rd.

Alcaraz into quarters

Carlos Alcaraz showed no sign of being hampered by an ankle injury as he beat Belgium's Zizou Bergs 6-4, 6-3 on Saturday to reach the Japan Open quarters.

The World No. 1 hurt himself two days earlier in his opening match in Tokyo, crumpling to the ground before playing on with his ankle heavily strapped.

Shailesh opens India's gold tally; Jeevanji bags a silver

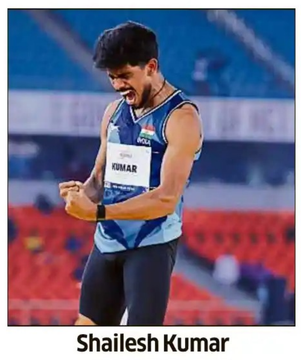
NEW DELHI, PTI: High jumper Shailesh Kumar opened India's gold medal account at the World Para Athletics Championships with a shock win while the unheralded Thekra Alkaabi of United Arab Emirates (UAE) shattered the world record in the relatively new women's 100m frame running event here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Shailesh, the 2023 Asian Para Games champion, cleared 1.91m to shatter the championships record and win the men's high jump T63 event on the opening day of the showpiece which saw two world records being broken.

Another Indian in the fray, Varun Singh Bhati clinched the bronze. He also jumped an identical height of 1.85m as Frech but the American got the silver on count back.

In the women's 400m T20 final, defending champion Deepthi Jeevanji of India picked up a silver with a season best time of 55.16 seconds.

Turkey's Aysel Onder shattered her own world record of 54.96m to win the gold with a time of 54.51 seconds in the event meant for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The 20-year-old had finished second behind Deepthi in the 2024 edition and avenged that defeat.



Shailesh Kumar

Alkaabi of UAE shattered the world record in the women's 100m T71 frame running event.

Alkaabi clocked 19.89 seconds to set the record and win the gold in the event in which athletes use a three-wheeled running frame, with a saddle, body support and most notably, no pedals.

Results: Men: High Jump T63: Shailesh Kumar (Ind) 1.91, 1; Ezra Frech (USA) 1.85, 2; Varun Singh (Ind) 1.85, 3.
100m T47: Petrucio Ferreira (Bra) 10.66, 1; Shi Kangjun (Chn) 10.68, 2; Aymane El Haddaoui (Mar) 10.70, 3.
100m T71: Arthur Krzyzek (Pol) 21.19, 1; Vinicius Augusto Cabral (Bra) 22.43, 2; Loannis Avramidis (Gre) 25.25, 3.
Women's: 100m T71: Thekra Alkaabi (UAE) 19.89 (WR), 1; Bella Morkus (Ltu) 21.53, 2; Miriam Dominikowska (Pol) 23.56, 3.
400m T20: Aysel Onder (Tur) 54.51s, 1; Deepthi Jeevanji (Ind) 55.16s, 2; Yuliia Shuliar (Ukr) 56.29, 3.
Long Jump T37: Wen Xiaoyan (Chn) 5.32, 1; Anais Angelina (Mri) 4.59, 2; Jaleen Roberts (USA) 4.53, 3.

Armless archer Sheetal makes history, Toman steals spotlight

GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA), PTI: The 18-year-old Indian Sheetal Devi scripted history by becoming the first woman armless archer to win world championship gold in the compound individual section, and Toman Kumar replicated the title run in the corresponding men's event as India continued their good run at the Para World Archery Championships here on a riveting Saturday.

On a day when India produced two world champions and a total of five medals, Sheetal added a new page to history book, defeating Turkiye's world No.1 Oznur Cure Girdi 146-143 to claim gold.

The Jammu and Kashmir archer, the only competitor without arms in the tournament, shoots using her feet and chin.

In fact, the only previous instant of an armless archer winning gold came back in 2022 when USA's Matt Stutzman stood on top of the podium during the Dubai World Championships.

Sheetal had earlier won a mixed team bronze in the compound event with Toman Kumar, defeating Great Britain's Jodie Grinham and Nathan MacQueen 152-149.

In the compound women's open team event, Sheetal and Sarita settled for silver after losing to Turkey in the final.

Later, Toman claimed the compound men's title after fellow Indian Rakesh Kumar was forced to withdraw following a technical glitch as he lost 40-20 in an all-Indian final.

Sheetal Devi. X

Asian aquatics: India dive into a pool of promise

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

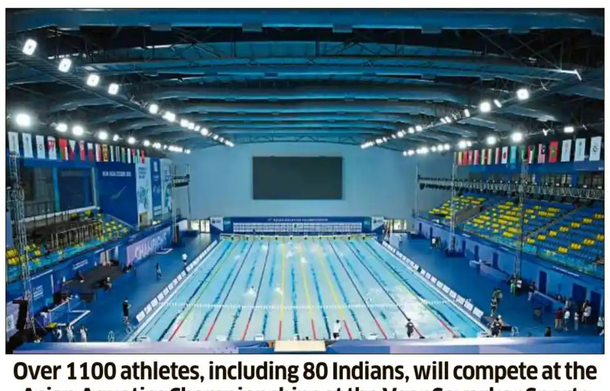
The Indian aquatics fraternity is buzzing with anticipation as the Asian Aquatics Championships begin in Ahmedabad on Sunday -- the country's biggest aquatic showpiece since the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Spread over two weeks, the event has drawn entries from 25 nations, including powerhouses like China and Japan.

This will allow fans in Ahmedabad get a rare glimpse of world champions such as Qin Haiyang and a potential glimpse for what's to come at next year's Asian Games. Korea's absence, meanwhile, could nudge the door open for India to sneak in among medallists.

More than 1,100 athletes have already checked into the city for four disciplines — swimming, artistic swimming, diving and water polo — and the host nation has fielded 80 competitors across these disciplines.

Swimming naturally leads the charge with a 40-strong contingent split evenly between men and women. Water polo follows with 15 names each for the men's and women's squads, while divers and officials have been trickling in through the week to a warm welcome.

For the Indian contingent, the goal is clear: Measure up to Asia's elite and match the top-six benchmarks laid down by the Sports Ministry's newly-minted guidelines. India's previous outing, at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2022, did not yield a medal but did feature two top-five finishes, including a stirring national-record effort from the 4x100 medley relay team spearheaded by Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj.



Over 1100 athletes, including 80 Indians, will compete at the Asian Aquatics Championships at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad from September 28 to October 11.

Sajan is back after an injury lay-off, while Srihari heads into the Championships brimming with confidence after rewriting two national records at the University Games.

"I am not thinking about a top-six finish, I am aiming for much more," Srihari told *DH* ahead of his 200m freestyle heats on the opening day.

"I paid no attention to the criteria because we are looking at an Asian Games medal and not just improving a spot or two on what we did before."

And at the Asian championships, home advantage could well tilt the scales, but the bigger question is whether the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, built at a cost of Rs 825-crore, can live up to international standards. Prakash, who has spent the past month training with the national squad at the venue as part of a mandatory camp, offers reassurance.

"The infrastructure is impressive and right up there among the best," says Sajan, the first Indian swimmer to appear at two Olympics. "Apart from the home-crowd advantage, the month-long camp was an added bonus. Hopefully it all falls into place tomorrow."

With world champions in the lanes, an upgraded home facility and a quietly ambitious squad, India is set for a fortnight where the pool promises as much drama as the podium.

Today's action: Men: 200m freestyle, 200m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 1500m freestyle (timed final), 4x100m medley relay.
Women: 200m freestyle, 200m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 1500m freestyle (timed final), 4x100m medley relay.
Winners will participate in the medal rounds, which is scheduled in the evening.

CRICKET Harmanpreet & Co have the advantage as they look to end 47-year wait for a World Cup

This time for Indian women?

While the Indian women's team has been a dominant force in Asia, it has not been able to extend that dominance at the world stage. PTI

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

One World Cup victory is all it takes for greatness to be achieved and legacies to be defined and built.

Over the next four weeks, eight teams will be on the precipice of realising a similar dream, in a tournament that has seen defending champions stumble, strong contenders implode, dark horses punch above their weight and power-packed teams run out of steam.

And for about two weeks now, the hype-masters have asked one question: Can India finally break the 47-year jinx?

"It's not about breaking the jinx," former India cricketer and 2005 World Cup finalist Anjum Chopra tells DHoS.

"Every team gets into the tournament to win. All eight teams will look to win. It's about understanding the job at hand on that certain day. It is a game where you have to go out there, compete and win each day. And every game, you start from zero. It's a process."

India have been perennially a solid unit in all formats. They have wins against all opposition, both at home and on foreign shores. Their arsenal has been stacked with some of the finest talents the game has seen. And yet, their ICC trophy cabinet continues to echo emptiness like a month-end bank balance.

The Indian side has a not-so great habit of crumbling at the knockout stages. They have done so two times in ODI World Cups and once in a T20 World Cup.

And if you thought they did better at home, think again. All three of the ODI World Cups as hosts (1978, 1997 and 2013) and their best result is making a semifinal in 1997. They did not win a game in 1978 and failed to qualify for the Super Six stage in 2013.

And a large part of the failures surrounding India can be put down to a simple factor: crumbling under pressure.

But the scenario is very different this time around and the team is tuned well with experienced players, highlights Chopra.

"The fact that Smriti (Mandhana), Harman (Kaur) and Deepti (Sharma) have been part of finals, even Harleen (Deol) and Jemimah Rodrigues have been around for a while. This bunch has played together and most of them have been in situations that demand extra as an individual, which helps in big tournaments," the 48-year-old added.

For all the instant admiration and the jubilation around India's first ODI World Cup final in 2005 in Centurion, there was only one team that looked like winning.

While the second final, 12 years later in 2017 on English soil, was uplifting, the tournament still finished with more questions than answers.

However, there's an air of confidence surrounding this team, which is also the most settled Indian unit to come into an ODI World Cup. The same was showcased when they gave defending and seven-time winners Australia a run for their money in a 2-1 series loss.

"Most of them have grown in their roles and the strength remains that they are better tuned to handle those pressure situations," she added.

While the images of their World Cup history have not been a pretty viewing, it presents an excellent opportunity for India to reverse the trend and go from a top side to a top of the world unit, with the 13th edition of the tournament starting on September 30. The task, though, won't be an easy one.

Word spreads fast when you're in a home World Cup. And it spreads faster when 1.4 billion are expecting you to win.

The Indian crowds don't accept anything other than trophies. While the team will have to try not to let expectations get into their heads, it will still be difficult not to be the centre of attention in the lead-up to the tournament.

However, Chopra feels that it's all part and parcel of the job and that's why the best get picked to represent the country.

"It's their job to handle the expectations. A home World Cup comes for almost every nation; the expectations will be there, it's a part and parcel of the game. You're picked to play for India to handle pressure and play to your strengths."

India are among the most complete teams at the moment in women's cricket. They are the No.3 ODI side, have a settled and fine-tuned batting line-up, a world-class spin attack and the Mandhana factor.

Since the 2022 edition, Smriti has scored 2100 runs at an average of 58.33, having made eight hundreds. With her new partner in Pratika Rawal and the omission of Shafali Verma, she has fluently transformed into an aggressor's role.

While there are positives, India also have been reckless, complacent and have gone down to average opponents.

Come Tuesday, in Guwahati, when they flip the coin on a new campaign, they will look to change the narrative.

"The first game is important. If you start well, it can set a nice tone. However, even if you don't start well, it's not the end of the world, you have opportunities to come back. It's just a game. Yes, first games are important but it's not the only thing in a long tournament like this."

While the Indian squad reflected the faith of the team management in its spinners, Chopra made it clear that the conditions in different venues will influence the final team combination.

"Every team is different. You pick a team based on form and availability. Spin will play a part. How much, that remains to be seen. India boast good cricketing wickets and surfaces that are good for strokeplay. Conditions will demand how you pick the players, and with spinners, India will benefit from the experience."

However, she felt that the hosts were a little too spin-heavy with Deepti, Sneh Rana, Sri Charani and Radha Yadav in the squad.

"I feel you can't have four spinners playing in the team together. It depends on how the side picks the combination; ideally, you require six bowling options to have a bit of variety in the attack," Chopra concluded.

India have a job at hand. For it to go from an expectation to reality, they will have to rise above their ordinary self at ICC events. On many occasions, they have been unrecognisable under pressure. This Indian side, however, might just buck the trend by becoming the first team to win a women's World Cup.

India in ODI World Cups

1973	DNP
1978	Fourth
1982	Fifth
1988	DNP
1993	Fourth
1997	Semifinal
2000	Semifinal
2005	**Final**
2009	Third
2013	Group Stage
2017	**Final**
2022	Fifth

Europe have USA searching for answers

FARMINGDALE (USA), AFP: Jon Rahm and Tommy Fleetwood struck twice as Europe stormed into a three-point lead on the opening day of the Ryder Cup on Friday, overwhelming the United States despite President Donald Trump's high-profile visit.

Europe dominated the morning with three commanding foursomes victories for a 3-1 cushion, then added 2.5 more points in the afternoon four-balls to tighten their grip on Bethpage Black, finishing the day with a 5.5-2.5 advantage.

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler and US star Bryson DeChambeau lost twice.

"Incredible day," Europe captain Luke Donald said. US captain Keegan Bradley was searching for answers.

Racing Ruler for feature

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Prasad Raju-trained Racing Ruler, to be ridden by A Sandesh, is fancied to win the Calcutta Monsoon Derby, the feature event of the races to be run over a mile and a quarter on Sunday. The first race starts at 12 pm.

1. Bold Display Handicap - 1100M: Epic Play 1, I Smell The Danger 2, N R I Fantasy 3.
2. Tenno Sho Cup - 1200M: Supreme Grandeur 1, Black Eagle 2, Clifford 3.
3. Shivalik Showers Cup - 1100M: Dona Sienna 1, Fast Approach 2, Oishika 3.
4. Elistano Handicap (Div I) - 1400M: Three Little Words 1, Jean Lafette 2, City Of Joy 3.
5. Elistano Handicap (Div II) - 1400M: Enola Holmes 1, Only Dreams 2, Don'tstopthemusic 3.
6. Mountain Lily Handicap - 1400M: Zuri 1, Natural Grace 2, victorious Omen 3.
7. Free Energy Hanicap - 1400M: Aabushan 1, Bharat 2, King Louis 3.
8. Monsoon Cup - 2000M: High Command 1, Sativur 2, Vincent Van Gogh 3.
9. Calcutta Monsoon Derby - 2000M: Racing Ruler 1, Heart 2, Shine 3.
10. Ascriptive Handicap (Div I) - 1600M: Polka Dot 1, Paulite Warrior 2, The Presence 3.
11. Ascriptive Handicap (Div II) - 1600M: Queen Of Mafia 1, Oh My Darling 2, Keitaro 3.
Day's best: Polka Dot. **Jackpot:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. **I treble:** 3, 4, 5. **II treble:** 6, 7, 8. **III treble:** 9, 10, 11.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Palace snap Reds' run

Manchester City thrash Burnley 5-1; Chelsea, United suffer defeats

LONDON, AFP

Liverpool's perfect Premier League start came undone in a 2-1 defeat at Crystal Palace on Saturday as Manchester United suffered another setback in losing 3-1 at Brentford.

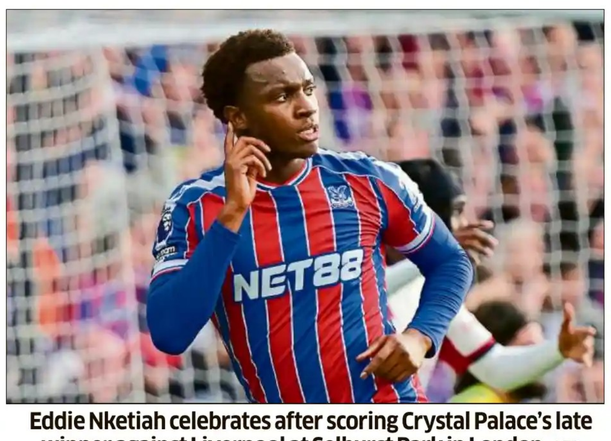
Palace are now the only undefeated team in the Premier League after extending their club record run to 18 games in all competitions without losing, including three games against Liverpool.

The English champions were finally made to pay for another disjointed performance after being bailed out by a series of late goals in winning their opening fixtures. United boss Ruben Amorim's wait for back-to-back Premier League wins goes on, nearly a year into his reign, after a disastrous defensive display at Brentford.

Manchester City needed some help from Burnley defender Maxime Esteve, who scored two own goals, in a 5-1 win for Pep Guardiola's men.

For the second consecutive weekend, Chelsea were undone by a red card in a 3-1 defeat to Brighton.

Results: Brentford: 3 (Thiago 8th, 20th, Jensen 90+5th) bt Manchester United: 1 (Sesko 26th); Chelsea: 1 (Fernandez 24th) lt to Brighton: 3 (Welbeck 77th, 90+10th, De Cuyper 90+2th); Crystal Palace: 2 (Sarr 9th, Nketiah 90+8th) bt Liverpool: 1 (Chiesa 87th); Leeds: 2 (Rodon 37th, Longstaff 54th) drew with Bournemouth: 2 (Semenyo 26th, Kroupi 90+3th); Manchester City: 5 (Esteve 12th og, 65th og, Nunes 61th, Haaland 90th, 90th+3) bt Burnley: 1 (Anthony 38th).



Eddie Nketiah celebrates after scoring Crystal Palace's late winner against Liverpool at Selhurst Park in London. AFP

No. 100 for Kane

Harry Kane scored his 99th and 100th goals for Bayern Munich in his 104th game for the German champion as Bayern won 4-0 against Werder Bremen on Friday.

"It's crazy even for me, to be honest," Kane told Sky.

Atletico thrash leaders Real

Julian Alvarez struck twice to earn Atletico Madrid an emphatic 5-2 derby victory over La Liga leaders Real Madrid on Saturday, ending their rivals' perfect start to the season, reports AFP from Madrid.

Xabi Alonso's side had won all six of their games but Diego Simeone's Atletico overran them at the Metropolitano stadium."A big thanks to all the staff, the players, everyone who helped me get to where I am."

Kylian Mbappe and Arda Guler netted to put Real Madrid in front but Alexander Sorloth levelled for Atletico at the end of a thrilling first half.

Alvarez fired in from the penalty spot and then bent home a free-kick.

Result: Atletico Madrid: 5 (Normand 14th. Sorloth 45th+3, Alvarez 51st, 63rd pen, Griezmann 90th+3) bt Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 25th, Guler 36th).

FC Bengaluru United blank Rebels FC

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL FOOTBALL

A goal each by Rayan Wifred S, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar and Chabungbam Linky Meitei saw FC Bengaluru United blank Rebels FC 3-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Saturday.

With both the teams struggling to find the back of the net, Rayan broke the deadlock in the 40th minute for FCBU to go into the half-time with a slender lead. The second-half turned out to be more fruitful for FCBU as Nikhil added his team's second goal in the 50th minute before Chabungbam scored the third and final goal in the 75th minute.

Results: FC Real Bengaluru: 1 (Syed Ahmed 85th) bt HAL FC: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 2 (Khaleel Ur Rahaman 36th OG, Maitshaphang Neng Nong 53rd) bt Roots FC: 0; FCBU: 3 (Rayan Wifred S 40th, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 50th, Chabungbam Linky Meitei 75th) bt Rebels FC: 0.

FC Real Bengaluru players celebrate after scoring a goal during their win against HAL SC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Keerthana, Haria emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Keerthana Pandian held her nerve in a tightly-contested match to edge out the formidable Anupama Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu 4-3 and win the title at the National 6-Red Snooker Championships in Dehradun late on Friday evening.

At the adjacent table, Dhvaj Haria, known for his billiards prowess, defeated Pushpender Singh of Railways 6-3 to annex the men's crown.

In battle between equals, Keerthana and Anupama split the first four frames of the best-of-seven frame finale. The Karnataka cueist came up with a break of 34 in the fifth to take a 3-2 lead.

Anupama, not prepared to throw in the towel, responded with a 45 break under pressure to take the issue to the decider. Keerthana, confident and striking much better, played a percentage game.

She scored when she got the opportunity and resorted to safety when she lost position to keep Anupama on a tight leash.

Results: Men: Final: Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) bt Pushpender Singh (Rlys) 6-3.
Third-place playoff: Digvijay Kadian (Har) bt Brijesh Damani (PSPB) 4-2.
Women: Final: Keerthana Pandian (Kar) bt Anupama Ramachandran (TN) 4-3.
Third-place playoff: Amee Kamani (MP) bt Ishika Shah (MP) 3-0.
Final standings: Men: 1. Dhvaj Haria; 2. Pushpender Singh; 3. Digvijay Kadian; 4. Brijesh Damani; 5. Laxman Rawat (PSPB); 6. Sourav Kothari (PSPB); 7. S Shrikrishna (PSPB); 8. IH Manudev (Kar).
Women: 1. Keerthana Pandian; 2. Anupama Ramachandran; 3. Amee Kamani; 4. Ishika Shah; 5. Shruthi (TN); 6. Suniti Damani; 7. Snenthra Babu (TN); 8. Arantxa Sanchis (Mah).

Keerthana Pandian

Glacoma tops Free Press Journal Trophy

PUNE RESULTS

Giacoma, from the stables of Dallas Todywalla and ridden by Sandesh, won the Free Press Journal Trophy, the feature event of the races on Saturday.

1. Mid Day Trophy - 1000M: Esperanza (Ramswarup) 1; Midnight Expresss (NS Parmar) 2; Cellini (Antony Raj) 3; Liban (Nazil) 4; Wb: 3-3/4, 3-1/4, 7L. T: 0:58.36. TB: Shazaan Shah. Fav: Midnight Express.
2. Indiarace.com Cup -1400M: We Still Believe (Pranil) 1; Lord Murphy (Aditya Waydande) 2; Arbitrage (Sandesh) 3; Baleno (Bhawani Singh) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1-1/2, 34/L. T: 1:28.29. TB: S Waheed. Fav: Lord Murphy.
3. Racingpule.in Trophy- 1000M: Etoile (Antony Raj) 1; Mirae (Avinash P) 2; Adonis (SJ Sunil) 3; Moment Of Madness (Bharat Singh) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 1/2, 1L, T: 1:00.01. TB: Bezan Chenoy. Fav: Etoile.
4. Times Of India Trophy - 1400M: Shambala (Antony Raj) 1; Son Of A Gun (A Prakash) 2; Mojito (Naik) 3; It's My Time (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: 4-1./2, 1-3/4, 2-1/2L. 1:25.40. TB: Nazak Chenoy. Fav: Shambala.
5. Hindu Trophy - 1000M: El Moran (Trevor Patel) 1; Lightning Mcqueen (Neeraj Rawal) 2; Heaven's Rhythm (SJ Sunil) 3; Skandha (CS Jodha) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, Hd, 2-1/4L. T: 0:59.58. TB: N Lagad. Fav: El Moran.
6. Free Press Journal Trophy- 1600M: Giacomo (Sandesh) 1; Rosario (A Prakash) 2; Lord And Master (Mosin) 3; Vincero (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: 3-3/4, 7-3/4, 1/2l. . T: 1:40.32. TB: D Todywalla. Fav: Giacomo.
7. Race Mirror Trophy - 1400M: Miracle Of Hanukah (Antony Raj) 1; Merchant Of Venice (N Jodha) 2; Jacksson (Sandesh) 3; Phatasmique (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: Nk, 2-1/2, 1/2L. T: 1:28.59. TB: Aman Altaf Hussain. Fav: Phantasmique.
Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 29w; 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 68; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 19; Tri: Rs 39 & 32.
II race: Rs 51w; Rs 16, 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 137; Q: Rs 39; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 241 & 98; Ex: Rs 367 & 193.
III race: Rs 16w; 12, 14, 29p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 73; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 75; Tri: Rs 394 & 280; Ex: Rs 2,852 & 1,466.
IV race: Rs 12w; 10, 24p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 67; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 522 & 203. Ex: Rs 783 & 187.
V race: Rs 15w; 10, 11, 58p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 146; Tri: Rs 319 & 392; Ex: Rs 2,449 & 399.
VI race: Rs 15w; 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 33; Q: Rs 17; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 272 & 180; Ex: Rs 487 & 73.
VII race: Rs 29w; 15, 16, 15p; Fc: Rs 525; Q: Rs 122; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 1,090 & 196; Ex: Rs 1,309 & 366.
Jackpot: Rs 472 (697).
Runner-up: Rs 36 (3902).
Treble: Rs 58 (263).

Set In Gold wins Columbia Handicap

CHENNAI RESULTS

Deeopesh Narredu-trained Set In Gold and ridden by Yash Narredu won the Columbia Handicap, the feature event of the races on Saturday.

1. Amorous Knight Handicap - 1600M: Kallipos (Jitendra Singh) 1; Flourish (J Chinoy) 2; Saintly Star (Koshi Kumar) 3; Queens Cliff (Dhanu Deora) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 1/2, 2-1/4. T: 1:44.45. TB: MM Uthaiah. Fav: Avantador.
2. Revelation Handicap -1400M: Larado (N Darshan) 1; Aurora Borealis (Farid Ansari) 2; Bomber Jet (Dhanu Deora) 3; War Emblem (MS Deora) 4; Wb: 1, 1-3/4, 1L. T: 1:29.53. TB: J.Sebastian. Fav:Larado.
3. Charon Handicap - 1200M: Royal Deccan (Aleemuddin) 1; Wood Art (Jitendra Singh) 2; Off Shore Breeze (Inayat) 3; Sacre Couer (M.S.Deora) 4; Wb: 7, 1/2, 1-3/4L. T: 1:15.50. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Royal Deccan.
4. Columbia Handicap - 1100M: Set In Gold (Yash Narredu) 1; Gold Ride (N Darshan) 2; Rising Tycoon (Manish) 3; Springsteen (AS Peter) 4; Wb: 5-1/4, 1-3/4, 2L.: 1:06.23. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Set In Gold.
5. Galileo Handicap - 1600M: Star Power (Yash Narredu) 1; Alpha Domino (Jitendra Singh) 2; Carolina Springs (Dhanu Deora) 3; Sea Legacy (AS Peter) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 1-3/4, 1/2L. T: 1:43.77. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Star Power.
6. Almanac Handicap - 1600M: Elfin Knight (AR Pradeep) 1; This Is Gold (Yash Narredu) 2; Vishwas (MS Deora) 3; Key To The Mint (N Darshan) 4; Wb: Snk, 5-3/4, 1/2Ll. . T: 1:39.74. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Elfin Knight.
Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 163w; 35, 22p; Fc: Rs 711; Q: Rs 374; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 1,751 & 1,201; Ex: Rs 8,856 & 3,795.
II race: Rs 17w; Rs 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 212 & 83; Ex: Rs 128 & 40.
III race: Rs 11w; 10, 19p; Fc: Rs 60; Q: Rs 57; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 238 & 62; Ex: Rs 781 & 462.
IV race: Rs 17w; 13, 12, 74p; Fc: Rs 43; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 186; Tri: Rs 595 & 397. Ex: Rs 7.701 & 3,850.
V race: Rs 11w; 10, 32p; Fc: Rs 41; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 59 & 10; Ex: Rs 228 & 127.
VI race: Rs 15w; 13, 11, 10p; Fc: Rs 56; Q: Rs 43; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 46 & 15; Ex: Rs 210 & 114.
Jackpot: Rs 143 (553).
Runner-up: Rs 28 (1194).
Treble: Rs 67 (132).

STATE, MARKET, SOCIETY

The A in GBA: Authority, Activity, Achievement or Accountability?

Ashwin Mahesh
A social entrepreneur, founder of Mapunity and LVBL, and co-founder, Lithium, wakes up with hope for the city and society, goes to bed with a sigh
@ashwinmahesh

A little less than two decades ago, the Karnataka government decided that all of the Bengaluru urban area should be one municipality, and abolished several city councils and over 100 panchayats that surrounded it to form the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. We were told that it would be easier and more uniform to have all those outlying areas managed coherently with the big city in the centre, and administration would dramatically improve.

That experiment is dead. This time, we were told that it would be much better if governance in the surrounding areas is more accessible and accountable to the people, and the new cities could even compete among themselves in a friendly and positive way. Bengaluru is still great, but the 'Mahanagara' was probably a mistake, and we should correct it. Out with BBMP, therefore, and welcome to the Greater Bengaluru Authority, home of five shiny new municipal corporations.

But what's new? What is the 'A' in GBA? The notification of the new cities has been followed by a flurry of activity – roads being tarred, footpaths being cleared of obstructions, waste being removed from black spots – that is promptly documented in social media posts. All of this is good, of course, although many citizens have questioned the quality of a lot of this work, and it remains to be seen if it is also temporary. A sudden rush of activity alone cannot reverse the fallout of underlying problems. Our cities need a rush of funding – nearly all our taxes go to the state and Centre, leaving local councils stretched to do anything more than patchwork. They also need a surge in empowerment; if nearly every project has to be approved by GBA and the state government, the new commissioners can't really speed things up much.

The corporations are doing their bit. What about GBA? The new legislation intends that this authority should be able to coordinate better between the cities, direct major infrastructure projects, and solve problems that a municipality cannot. Perhaps that will happen. For now, however, GBA is mostly sharing pictures and posts from the corporations on its social handles.

The government also decided that, in addition to overseeing the new corporations, GBA will be the planning body for Bengaluru. In our city, 'plan' is mostly fiction; the Bangalore Development Authority has firmly established that. It has been packed off beyond urban limits. The cities of Bengaluru will now be planned by GBA. Same bottle, new label – perhaps new wine too, in time?

A lot of this activity still feels like moving pieces on a chessboard on the deck of the Titanic. The most recent reminder of this came from Sarjapur Road, where the government pleaded for land from a private company to help improve traffic in the area. The response was telling. Premji not only pointed out that the land is private and its use is subject to obligations and compliances; he also hinted at what's missing – the government had failed to properly plan the area.

It will take time to make the city more liveable, even with new efforts. Those of us who are not thinking about leaving can only hope that GBA will achieve something different from BBMP and BDA. There is every risk that 'bad plus bad will still equal bad'.

Meanwhile, the High Court is looking closely to decide whether all of this is illegal. Routine administration is supposed to be done by the corporations, and planning by the Metropolitan Planning Committee, which doesn't even exist. So what's GBA doing these things for? On a chessboard, there are rules about how each piece can move, but the government hopes that if it adds an entirely new piece, it can move it around as it pleases.

There is one early sign of hope. It is certainly easier to engage with the new, smaller corporations. I visited the South Corporation office along with a few others to meet the new officials, and I found that other groups were doing the same. It has become easier to discuss among ourselves as well as with the bureaucrats, because the corporation is now nearer to us. Officers are also keen to make their mark among peers in the other cities. It is up to citizens to make use of this new accessibility.

Will proximity also improve accountability? Consistently over the last two decades, the quality of a lot of work has been poor, wasteful expenditure was rampant, serious issues remained neglected, and the participation of people in decision-making was thwarted repeatedly. The starting score, as a result, is 0 out of 4, and people no longer even believe that local governance can be a force for good. That's the page we need to turn.

FEUDAL TO FEDERAL

Caste survey must count for all

None of us chooses when, where, and whom we are born to. Our birth is a 'lottery', or in statistical terms, a random event. But does this 'lottery' determine how we perform in life? If yes, how can a society ensure that a random variable such as one's birth is not the primary determinant of one's life outcomes? These are profoundly important and deeply logical questions that every society must confront and answer.

The best way to answer them is through an empirical exercise that provides objective, quantifiable data and evidence of whether one's birth lottery is a significant factor in one's progress in life. This empirical exercise is called the 'caste census'. A census is a data and information collection exercise backed by scientific methods. It can be conducted on people, animals, trees, the climate, or any subject that needs to be studied. In this vein, a caste census is a census conducted of various caste groups of people.

The Government of Telangana conducted a rigorous and scientific caste census that collected 75 fields of social, economic, educational, occupational, political, and caste-related information of all 3.5 crore people in the state. It listed 242 castes under the categories of General, Backward Classes, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe. This vast repository of data was then given to an outside expert group to glean and analyse, and produce a report. The group was chaired by the retired Supreme Court judge and the I.N.D.I.A bloc's vice-presidential nominee: B Sudershan Reddy. I was the convenor of this expert group, which also had reputed sociologists, economists, political scientists, civil society activists, and academics.

The process of conducting a census and analysing the data is scientific and bureaucratic. Drafting sound policies based on these findings is a political process and the mandate of democratically elected politicians. This delegation of responsibilities is critical for a caste census.

Praveen Chakravarty
is a Congressman curious about correlations, causes & consequences
@pravchak

However, given that caste is an emotive subject in Indian society, the groups involved seek presence in or lead all aspects of the exercise. Politicians want to conduct the census, which is a technical exercise best done by bureaucrats; activists and bureaucrats want to analyse and draw conclusions from the data, which is a science best applied by experts and academics; activists want to set policies and actions for various caste groups, which is a political process best left to political leaders, and so on.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka understood this division of responsibilities and let the right set of people handle different aspects of the exercise. Officers of the Planning Department conducted the census; the Centre for Good Governance, a technology wing of the government, collected and stored the data; external experts analysed and calculated the backwardness of each caste group; the state government formulated policy actions such as a new law for 42% reservation for backward classes in the local body elections.

Karnataka's socio-economic survey, which is underway, is being led by the State Commission for Backward Classes. The Telangana example shows that the bureaucratic machinery is best equipped to conduct such an exercise that involves rigorous, extensive collection of household data. Furthermore, a census pegged to socio-economic factors and caste cannot be limited to an enumeration of backward classes. This is an exercise aimed at analysing various aspects of the lives of people. It is, therefore, better undertaken by the government than a commission affiliated to a specific social group.

It has been reported that the Karnataka survey lists more than 1,500 caste groups. The rationale behind listing such a huge number of castes is unclear, but it is likely to make the exercise cumbersome. The surveyor may find it extremely difficult to go through the entire list and elicit a response from every respondent or household. Most sociological studies of populations adopt a Pareto-optimal approach where 80-90% of the people typically fall into 10-15% of social groups. Even in Telangana, though there were 242 castes, 91% of the population was covered in just 42 of them.

A caste census is as much about the scientific 'census' as it is about the sociological 'caste'. If this exercise is genuinely intended to derive a deep understanding of society, it must be designed and conducted robustly by experts. Too often, a potential policy outcome of higher reservations or targeted welfare schemes overpowers and dictates the entire census exercise, leading to a sub-optimal and botched process. The cart of caste policy cannot be put before the horse, which is the census.

GADFLY

Restive youth and the coming angst storm

Most Indians were led to believe that Donald Trump was Prime Minister Modi's bestie, but the US president has turned out to be a frenemy. How fast have the wheels come apart! Trump's punishing H1-B visa fee has hammered the final nail in the coffin of Indian STEM-ers. An era of aspiration now appears to have disappeared, perhaps forever. Yet, even in this situation, there have been opinions citing this wounding moment as an opportunity for India to urgently concentrate on bolstering the fundamentals of its economy and becoming a future tiger. Online and elsewhere, there has been much spin on understanding this door-slam as an opening for a golden future of Indians, by Indians, for Indians, in India. What a fantasy.

India is in a South Asian neighbourhood where the youth are roiling. Doom and devastation in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and most recently in Nepal – all long-on-the-boil tinderboxes that exploded to cause regime change – are telling signs of populations in distress.

In these countries, change was mostly led by the youth. In many of them, the youth and people slightly older than them gave their political systems time and faith to make some constructive changes in the structures of their economy and polity. They were looking for indications and concrete actions that signalled support for their future growth and prosperity. In all these nations, already marked by high levels of outmigration due to a lack of growth opportunities at home, the malpractices, the disservices, the miscarriages of justice, and the capture of power and resources by all kinds of political and other elite groups, caused the frustrated young and not so young to shout, "We've had enough!"

Rahul Jayaram
teaches at the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, R V University, Bengaluru
@rahjayaram

If any country has large sections of its youth aspiring to get out of it, that country is in some serious trouble. The thought itself is tragic. Leaving home is the hardest thing, even for people who may not always be fully in love with it. On the streets of contemporary metropolitan India, it's not uncommon to see young Nepalis eking out a living as watchmen, security guards, cooks, and house help. As an outsider, I often wonder, who on earth would want to leave a country nestled in the Himalayas? And yet, what despair must drive hundreds upon hundreds of bright, industrious Nepalis to undertake arduous journeys to become cheap labour in countries such as India, and live out in poky homes.

To some degree, India's size and internal disparateness appear to have forestalled an upsurge of the sort we see in our neighbourhood. For what it's worth, our federal structure (despite being subject to sustained extreme shocks in the last decade), warts and all, has appeared to (unsteadily) hold our democratic fort. Some states, such as Karnataka, have made controversial but visible gestures (like the free bus ride scheme for women) to signal that the government cares. Yet, we'd be deluded if we think that India's youth are not on the brink. I haven't forgotten the youths who breached the Indian parliament on 13 December 2023, who have all but vanished from our timelines. That contravention, prima facie, was a statement of youth angst against prevailing systems.

Of all things, Trump has put pressure on India's Ministry of Education in a most unexpected fashion. Evidence suggests that Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have had a middling recent record in primary and higher education. To arrest such a tide, India now has no choice but to invest in its own systems, including education, and pump more resources and intent into the economy, to keep large sections of restive youth at bay. Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock.

JUDGEMENT DAY

Is a *parota* like a *roti*?

In the public imagination, tax law occupies a strange binary – too boring for words or too silly for a sensible discussion. For the boring version, we can see debates on the taxation of multinationals, which some intrepid person has captured in the idea of the 'two pillars' approach to global taxation. The construction terminology, however, has not helped. Until GST 2.0 came along, the silly version received its sustenance from classification disputes. These disputes relate to the category under which a particular good or service ought to be taxed. Last week, the government rationalised the rates in such a way that goods and services similar to each other carry the same rates, and therefore, many classification disputes are now irrelevant.

No amount of rationalisation can eliminate all classification disputes, and there's always a fair bit of amusement when some of these disputes hit the headlines. Classification disputes are at their most hilarious when they are about foodstuffs. I think it's the combination of common kitchen terms, combined with the solemnity of judicial language, that makes for great amusement.

In 1893, the US Supreme Court in *Nix v Hedden* weighed in on a question: Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? This question was important because the US tariffs at that time applied only to vegetables and not fruit. Importers argued that tomatoes brought in from the West Indies were fruits because they belonged to the fleshy part of the plant and contained seeds. The court distinguished between botanical meanings and ordinary meanings. While a tomato was a fruit in a botanical sense, in common parlance it was a vegetable, and it is the ordinary meaning of words in statutes that should count. The ordinary-meaning approach continues to influence legal debates.

The United Kingdom's Value Added Tax (VAT) system has zero tax on cakes and a standard tax rate (20%) on biscuits. Quite naturally, suppliers would like to argue that what they are selling is a cake, not a biscuit. McVitie's, a company known for its biscuits, sold 'Jaffa Cakes' that looked like biscuits but tasted a bit like cakes, thus leading to much legal sparring with the revenue. The courts ended the dispute through a painstaking balancing of cake v biscuit factors. The cakes won on taste, durability, and ingredients, while the biscuits won on packaging, presentation, and marketing. The cakes won overall, and Jaffa Cakes were not subject to VAT.

Nigam Nuggehalli
is a law professor who thinks that the law is too important to be left to the lawyers
nsnigam@gmail.com

After reading the legal intricacies in these decisions, I have developed some sympathy for Indian judges. Last year, the Kerala High Court in *Modern Food Enterprises v Union of India* had to decide whether the Malabar *parota* was similar to *khakhras*, *rotis*, and *chapatis* for the purposes of imposing a reduced 5% GST. I could understand why my students struggle with tax law. Before reaching the judgement, one has to navigate through 'Harmonised System of Nomenclature', numerous 'general principles of interpretation', and several 'explanatory notes'. These judgements give the impression that tax law is an island of interpretation untethered to other areas of law where more intellectual and moral pursuits are allowed and encouraged.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Even in the most mundane of tax matters, interpretation of the law proceeds much like interpretation in other areas of the law. Take the *parota* case. The judge used analogical reasoning to decide that *parotas*, for GST purposes, are no different from *rotis*. Not stirring stuff, but plenty of livelihoods are affected by the decision, and the judicial decision-making process is no different from that in other legal cases.

Many tax cases are not about classification but more complex matters regarding the nature and sources of income. Those cases are also dependent on analogical reasoning, bringing in its wake issues of ethics and morality. Take, for example, the oft-discussed 'no motor vehicles in the park' rule that faces the quandary of allowing an electric toy car into the park. Beyond the simple task of deciding whether a toy car can be considered a vehicle, the judge has to decide whether the rule is meant to maintain peace or security in the park. Peace and security are deceptive terms because they impugn other grand ideas about community living and regulation of technology.

The legal differences between biscuits and cakes might look trivial, but in use are interpretational techniques we find in other areas of the law. Nevertheless, we must allow ourselves to be amused by the amount of time courts spend on the differences between fruits and vegetables.

EMPIRE OF THE MIND

The forgotten language arts of listening and speaking

Gurucharan Gollerkeri
The former civil servant enjoys traversing the myriad spaces of ideas, thinkers, and books

If you asked a dolphin about water, intelligent as it is, it would likely ask, 'What is water?' The dolphin, surrounded by it, does not identify water as a separate thing, nor does it understand its importance. This is how it is with two forgotten language arts: listening and speaking. They are so firmly interwoven in so many facets of our lives that we seldom think about them. We take them for granted. It's time to alter that and put listening and speaking at the forefront of the minds of teachers, to actively impart to students these abilities, because they underpin so much of human interaction.

What must our graduates be able to perform successfully, regardless of their field? I would suggest that the answer is: to communicate effectively. What exactly does communicating in the workplace entail? As adults on the job, we devote three-quarters of our time to listening and speaking. That is sufficient rationale for focused efforts to train students to master these forgotten arts. I prefer using the phrase 'listening and speaking' rather than the more common 'speaking and listening' in the discussion of standards. I am turning the words around to emphasise that listening is the most important language art in life and education.

How do children learn? What was their first introduction to language? Listening. We all listened before speaking, and especially before reading or writing. Even our most visual and tactile students began their learning experiences by listening. I might add that reading among students is clearly declining. Books and libraries are passé. As the information explosion progresses uninterrupted, they will absorb a massive amount of information through listening to their teachers, of course, but also to one another, and speech supplied via various electronic means. If students' major mode of knowledge acquisition is listening, it makes sense for them to pay close attention to what they're hearing. In the classroom, it's most likely to be spoken language – lectures, certainly, but also process explanations, project instructions, one-on-one conversations, presentations by classmates, and group discussions. Education is fundamentally and unquestionably grounded in oral communication.

Students will enter an increasingly commercial world, where linguistic fluency and sociability will be two essential conditions of success. To sit at your computer, exhilarated at a brilliant regression analysis, will not suffice if you are afraid to confidently present the results to your senior management. Students as citizens will also graduate into civic duties. Teaching them the importance of civic duty is a challenge because what they see happening around them is often uncivil. Teaching public policy inevitably leads to conversations about polarising issues: gender, caste, religion, and climate change, for instance. It is difficult to identify models for debates that are civil and constructive on these topics. What we see on television and social media is less discussion and more polemics, which make for wonderful theatre and draw young people, but do little to lead them towards a better understanding. This trend must be reversed at some place; that place should be our classrooms, where you teach listening and speaking skills to separate facts from assumptions, construct fair counterarguments, and reach evidence-based judgements.

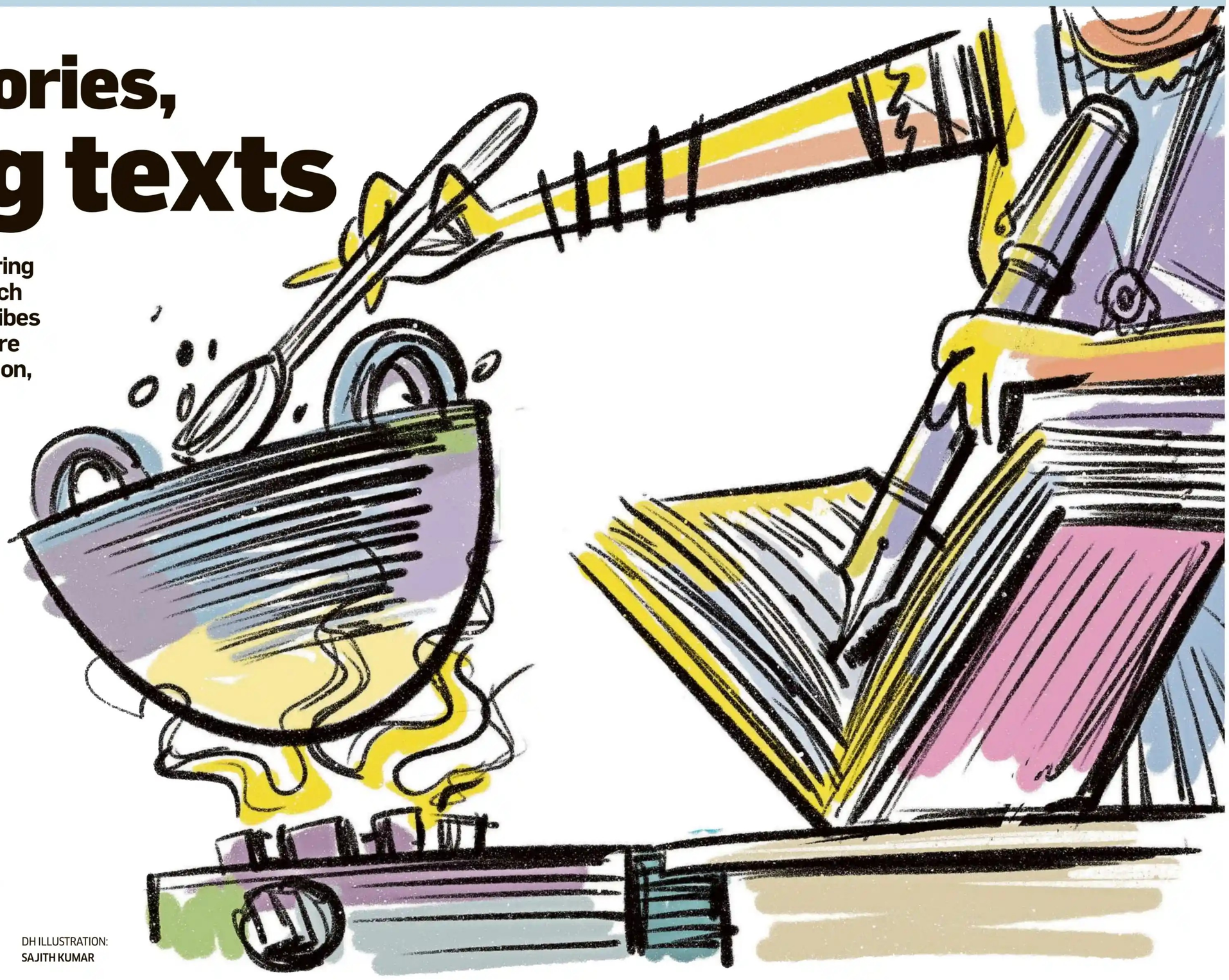
How might we teach listening and speaking to young students? A good beginning is to teach the rhetorical relationship: speakers to listeners, listeners to subjects, and speakers to subjects. Successful teachers use what Aristotle called the Appeals: Logos, Ethos, and Pathos. They appeal to a reader's sense of logos when they offer clear, reasonable premises and proofs when they speak, and make sure their listeners can follow the progression of ideas they are presenting. Teachers also use ethos when they demonstrate that they are credible, good-willed, and knowledgeable about their subjects, and when they connect with and appeal to the ethical or moral beliefs of the students. When speakers draw on the emotions of listeners and highlight them, they use pathos, the most powerful appeal and the most immediate, and that can be used to inculcate the values of a just and equitable society.

Teaching the connections between the words they work with in the classroom and the world outside can challenge and engage students in powerful ways as they find out how much they can use what they know of the means of persuasion to learn more. We need to bring a renewed emphasis to these most important skills. Encouraging students to observe how appeals work in their own listening and speaking will highlight to them the way the elements of diction, intonation, imagery, and syntax work. It makes students confident when they consciously exercise rhetoric. The work that you do to develop listening and speaking skills will be the single greatest gift you give to your students, one that will last a lifetime.

DECCAN HERALD
Sunday
September 28, 2025

Stirring stories, serving texts

In a poetic reflection where simmering pots and translated texts reflect each other, Vanamala Viswanatha describes how both translation and cooking are acts of love, labour, and improvisation, sustaining body and soul across languages, kitchens, and cultures



DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

As someone who has been cooking for family and friends for 45 years, and translating literary classics for a dozen and a half imaginary readers across the globe for 40 years, I don't see much of a difference between the two activities. These two preoccupations have kept me alive, literally and literarily, over the past four decades, their energies flowing into each other.

Vanamala Viswanatha

I am not the first to make the connection between women and translation; Sherry Simon and Lori Chamberlain, scholars of Translation Studies, have got there before me and written eloquently about the close connection between issues of gender and translation. I am only extending the connection to cooking, something routinely seen as women's work. I propose to draw out the essential constituents that make up the art of cooking and invite you to read it as my take on the art of translation.

What does cooking mean to you?

Cooking means different things to different people. Pratibha Nandakumar, a feminist poet in Kannada, has this to say: *"Cooking, I love it best;/ For, it is the outlet for all my rage and fury./ Peeling, pulping, pummelling, and pounding/ Crushing, mashing, squeezing, and grinding/ Roasting, boiling, frying, and stirring/ When I serve it hot hot on his plate/ He relishes it, smacking his lips!"*

As for me, I wax eloquent when I start talking about it. Once, when I had taken his favourite *gojju*, a sweet and sour dish made with orange peel, to Prof U R Ananthamurthy, he asked me if I had made it myself. I said, "Yes. Waking up in the morning, if I can meditatively cook, my being is at peace." And, he said, you uttered a line of poetry just now. My schoolmate, a girl who had to cook for her three brothers, morning, noon, and night, once said she wanted to invent a pill that would fill their stomachs for the rest of their lives and that way, she didn't have to cook at all!

The impact of translations

Likewise, translation has been defined, understood, practised and read so differently over space and time that translation theorists have had to accept defeat in imposing a singular, normative standard for defining and assessing translations. Rather than discussing the intrinsic quality of translations, the current trend is to ask more intelligent, productive questions that focus on the impact of translations — such as what do translations do in and for a given culture, their impact on cultural politics, and their role in times of war and peace.

Translation is the art of rewriting that ranges from faithfulness to betrayal, mechanical transfer to inventive co-creation, and domestication to foreignization. The art has manifested itself in so many hues and shades that diversity is its hallmark. Much like the food we make, every translation is the result of unique individual choices about the text and the approach tempered by the translator's context and cultural politics. Do we ever ask why Bendre didn't write like Kuvempu, or why Tolstoy didn't write like Dostoevsky? It's the same with the creativity of translation.

What's the menu?

A question that one confronts every day. The answer: Well, it depends. What did I cook yesterday? It is better not to repeat that. Then what are the veggies in the fridge and the ingredients in the pantry? You cannot plan a grand *bisibelebhat* with your toor lentil pot empty, nor a fresh cucumber salad when all you have in the fridge is shrivelled cabbage.

Then again, you must look to the health of the family. If your child has a bad stomach, you don't want to be frying papads or making jamuns. Also, should there be a guest, what should one choose? A spicy, hot chutney that is good on the palate but brings tears to his eyes? If a friend from the Hindi heartland is visiting, should I make a Kannadiga speciality with its unique avarekayi bean, which may be so exotic that it tastes strange to an alien tongue, or should I make staple *roti-dal-subzi*, which may be her comfort food? One can go on... the point is simply that the choice of dish depends on the context — the time and place; the location; the purpose of your cooking; the time and energy you have; and the taste and needs of those for whom you're cooking. Hasn't our translation guru, A K Ramanujan, argued that considerations of context are crucial to the Indian way of thinking?

Further, the factors that determine one's choice and mode of translation change depending on the two languages involved, especially if one of them is English. Ramanujan offered one kind of model in his influential Speaking of Shiva, fifty years ago. His attempt was to take the author, the text and its context to non-Kannada, Indian and Western readers. But lately, the trend is to make the readers walk to the author. Between hospitality and hostility, there are a range of possibilities available to the translator depending on her purpose and politics. So, what's the menu?

What does it take to cook?

Cooking is a composite art, which demands that you work with your head, heart, and hand in unison. You need to know what the dish should taste like and how to get at it. Not only does it require you to cut, chop, grate, and grind with your hands, but you also need to follow the right procedure and honour the diktats of cooking time. No two cooks worth their salt cook in the same way, nor do their dishes taste alike. It could be the same recipe, same ingredients, even the same kitchen. Yet there is always a difference between the two. Why, even the same cook cannot easily produce the same effect on two days. That *padam*, that *hada*, that unique *kai-ruchi*, that balance defies all chemistry. Then, to get it absolutely right, one has to add that one last essential ingredient — a pinch of love. The whole is more than the sum of its parts.

Translation, much like cooking, is an organic, holistic, contingent phenomenon — always already provisional, subjective, and context-bound. So, at all times, the part-whole relationship governs the process. Translatory moves are based on the map of the terrain and the destination. Macro decisions and micro decisions need to crucially meld in the right combinations to create that undefinable, intangible, elusive "spirit" or 'rasa', or 'rasam' in question.

What's in a name?

If I am serving that quintessential staple of the Kannada diet-*saaru* to a non-Kannada person, what should I call it? "Please have some lentil soup." Ayyo...ayyo... how can you? Where is soup, that mleccha concoction, and where is our *raamarasa* like *saaru*..., the purists would scoff. Alright, in the hope that your foreign guest is somewhat familiar with 'madrasi' food, you might try the word '*rasam*'. But where is your authenticity, I say?

As a staunch Kannada cook who has also learnt Tamil Iyengar cooking from my mother, I know just how different the two are: one is from Mars, the other from Jupiter. And to add pure, home-made ghee (or should I say, clarified butter) to fire, the Kannada nationalist in me fumes within, at the oppressive regimes of dominant, homogenising neighbouring cultures. So, should we domesticate or foreignise?

Conversely, when I visited Italy recently, it was a revelation that the subtle, thin-crust pizzas of Italy barely tasted anything like what I have been consuming under the same name, paying through my nose. The pilipili Italian pizzas in Thayappanahalli, South Bengaluru, adapted entirely to suit the spice-loving Indian tongue, bore no relation to those pizzas in Italy. And I'm not so sure that I regret it. Similarly, consider the case of the fried rice in Shanghai, which looks like a fourth cousin to our Indian brand of Chinese fried rice. Such creative adaptations speak volumes about India's entrepreneurial spirit. The clientele determines the name and nature of the cuisine.

So, what shall we call it, this dynamic exchange between languages — *bhashantar, rupanthar, veshantar, kaalantar, deshantar*? Translation, trans-creation, adaptation, or rendering?

But why cook at all?

Well, did you have a choice, as a woman? Is it not the sacred duty of a woman — especially a wife and mother — to look after the gastrological well-being of her family? Isn't she born as a woman to seek just this fulfilment? Can there be a better purpose to her life than 'full-filling' the tummies of her family members, morning, noon, and night? More importantly, what's the fuss about when she is naturally endowed with the skill? What's the big deal? As the saying goes in Kannada, "When there's *ingu* (hing) and *thengu* (coconut), even a *manga* (monkey) can cook."

But when the woman is not able to cook, then you hire a cook for the same job. There are wages to be paid. The scene changes altogether when you call that person a 'chef'. The job is pretty much the same, but the dishes go by fancy, 'europhane' sounding Indian names, as in our *molaghu tanni* becoming mulligatawny soup. You have to pay fancy prices for fancy names. And there is a pay packet to be paid out with impressive incentives and perks to the chef.

Thus, while there is some compensation for the cook, and incomparably more for the 'chef', there is no recompense whatsoever for the '*grihadevata*', the 'angel in the house', as Virginia Woolf put it. So why translate when it is not a paying proposition? So why translate when invariably all the bouquets go to the author and all the brickbats land on the translator's lap?

The answer cannot be in the singular. Different people do it for different reasons, just like cooking. Speaking for myself, I do it for the kick I get out of it, for its *masti.*

Translation as an enterprise

With the globe becoming more round, local cuisines have had to turn multi-cuisine, transforming purist homemakers and cooking specialists into hybrid cooks. Identity-based rhetoric of yesteryears has given way to hybridity and intersectional melange. Moms, who are unable to compete with dominant brands, are jumping on the bandwagon, saying, "If you can't fight them, join them." Packaging and presentation take precedence over healthy and tasty content. What was once a wholesome cottage industry has become a corporate business with glitz. AI is beginning to snatch the business from human hands.

Over the last two decades, translation has become an enterprise, with big-time commercial publishers getting into the fray. Markets rule what needs to be translated and how. Only short texts, nothing exceeding 200 pages, preferably in units of 10 pages. Your door-stopper classics have no place in this economy as everything — readership, time, attention span, energy, memory — is shrinking.

But there is always a silver lining, right? The translation of Indian literatures is coming to occupy a central, if still unequal, role in cultural exchange. With many more avenues for publicising one's translation through the digital media, literary festivals, on-line journals, and review spaces; with several substantive awards being instituted, not to speak of the two recent Bookers, and with many agents and publicists ready to invest in your work, translation has now become a visible and valued pursuit, despite the shadow of uncertainty cast by AI.

Now, the poor, self-effacing translator who had lived in the shadows all her life, quietly engaged in the joyous, if thankless, and organic act of co-creating a new text, has had to suddenly morph into this visible persona of a "creative writer", most deservedly, sharing in the recognition and reward with the author. I, for one, would not complain too loudly about this particular challenge of translation!

The author is a bilingual scholar and translator who has taught, published, and promoted Indian literatures in translation. Her inwardness with Kannada literature has found its best expression in her English translations of ancient, medieval and modern classics.

> Much like the food we make, every translation is the result of unique individual choices about the text and the approach, tempered by the translator's context and cultural politics. Do we ever ask why Bendre didn't write like Kuvempu, or why Tolstoy didn't write like Dostoevsky?

Feedback from our readers

It is always a pleasure to hear what our readers think of the articles we publish. Here's a selection of responses we have received in recent weeks. *(The responses have been edited for brevity and clarity).* Mail your responses to **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

This is regarding the article, **'Shots That Shaped India' (Big Picture/Sept 21).** This was a brilliant read, and I got to know about Waldemar Haffkine and many other people. Very informative and was an eye-opener in many ways. It was interesting to read about the beginnings of the Serum Institute of India. Looking forward to more such informative articles.

Arvind Silvester, Bengaluru

The article **'Riding Through The Teen Storm' (Big Picture/Sept 7)** was honestly one of the best I have read in many decades. In simple words, the author brought out the behavioural problems of teenagers and gave practical solutions about how parents can handle the escalating crisis. I am sure the article will be of immense help to parents of teenagers.

S V Srinivasan, Bengaluru

The article, **'Riding Through The Teen Storm' (Big Picture/Sept 7)** has prescribed formulae for tackling the erratic and unpredictable behaviour of their sons and daughters in their teens, and parents could pick up a tip or two from the handy hints that could go a long way in helping them to ride the teen storm. Resilience and infinite patience could well be the virtues that could stand one in good stead in such matters, and parents would do well to give their children a long rope.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

This was a very interesting and informative article. **('Shots That Shaped India/Big Picture/Sept 21).** Thank you for enriching my knowledge.

Anushree Lahoti, CEO, Lahoti Motors

This is regarding the article, **'India's Everyday Unicorns' (Big Picture/Aug 31).** This is indeed the right time to rise towards entrepreneurship, as AI will lead to many losing their jobs. Youngsters must think deeply about the ideas suggested in the article.

Margaret Rajan, Bengaluru

This is regarding the article, **'India's Everyday Unicorns' (Big Picture/Aug 31).** The authors have successfully highlighted that the more one is prepared to take a risk, the better the profitability, confidence, and social acceptance. Youth will need financial support from governments, guidance from parents, and moral support from peers. The idea that 'youth should create jobs, not just seek them' is powerful.

Industrialist, Gujarat

ASTROSPEAK
Guruji Shrii Arnav
Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

While Joseph is funny and observant, the book itself meanders, relying on anecdotes rather than building arguments, rendering it witty but seldom cohesive, writes Amritesh Mukherjee

The physics of inequality

India, the author writes, is "a republic of nobodies," where the poor are witnesses to a wealth they can never access but must daily serve. Seen here is a daily wager near Dhobi Ghat in Mumbai.

Every system has its breaking point. In physics, every object has a threshold: stress creates strain, and strain creates fracture. Even the strongest steel yields when enough pressure is applied. But what about societies? What about the moment when inequality becomes so extreme that the social fabric should, by any reasonable measure, tear apart?

India operates far beyond any theoretical breaking point. The delivery rider knocks at your door, late on a 20-minute promise made by some algorithm, soaked through by a merciless monsoon. His phone, wrapped in a plastic cover, buzzes with the next order before he's even handed you this one. You grumble about the delay, oblivious to the three flights of stairs he climbed while you sat in air-conditioned comfort, oblivious to the mathematics of his desperation: Rs 27 per delivery, minus petrol, minus phone bills, minus the platform's cut.

The domestic worker who scrubs your floors lives in a room that would fit inside your bedroom closet. She wakes at four to catch the first local train, standing pressed against strangers for an hour to reach your neighbourhood by six. She's already cleaned two other houses by the time she reaches yours, her back aching, her hands pruned from detergent and water.

The guard, the barber, the plumber, the gardener, the waiter — they all pass through your life like tools: necessary, invisible. Every day, millions of Indians serve people whose daily expenses exceed their monthly earnings. They clean toilets in homes worth crores and guard gates they'll never pass through as guests. They see the waste, the abundance, the cars you drive, the trinkets you hoard. They see the thin contempt in your eyes.

The Genevan philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, "When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich". Yet, in India, in a country where inequality has reached levels that would make Versailles blush, they don't eat the rich. Instead, they serve them breakfast.

Why don't they open the face of the guillotine and take power into their own hands? Why is it that the rich and the poor coexist peacefully? Manu Joseph's Why The Poor Don't Kill Us attempts to decode this miracle, to understand how a system so inherently unstable maintains its equilibrium.

India, he writes, is "a republic of nobodies," the poor existing as "ancient people in modern times," witnesses to a wealth they can never access but must daily serve. It's a nation where a farmer's daughter's life (Rs 20,000 compensation) is worth less than the leopard that killed her (Rs 25,000 fine for killing it).

This republic operates by its own physics, its own laws of cause and effect. He observes: "In the best areas of London or New York, you pay a premium for what the city offers, and what the city offers is available to everyone. In India, it is the opposite. The city is the problem, and you pay to shut it out, along with most Indians of your ilk."

But what keeps this impossible equation balanced? Joseph identifies several variables. The first is the performance — both genuine and calculated — of austerity by the wealthy. Mahatma Gandhi, after all, was a renunciate. Contemporary billionaires understand this well, too: Mukesh Ambani's familiar cultural markers, Ratan Tata's philanthropic gestures. Excess disguised as humility becomes easier to stomach.

Other deterrents lie within the system itself. The pathetic condition of Indian jails and judiciary ensures that many avoid even the idea of crime — for the poor, freedom is too fragile to risk losing in endless trials or rotting prisons. Joseph also skewers the false promise of higher education, which offers degrees as tickets to liberation.

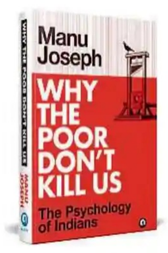
Equally sharp is his treatment of activism. "Every Indian who is not poor is, inescapably, a poverty-eradication thinker. His insurmountable problem is finding a competent authority to whom to delegate this task." "Across the ages, all of activism is just this — the second rung of a society fighting against the top rung in the name of a public cause."

He is also keenly aware of how envy works. The poor rarely measure themselves against the rich, for comparisons are made sideways. The maid envies the driver who earns slightly more, the driver envies the clerk, the clerk the manager, the manager the director. Discontent, instead of shooting upward, dissolves into local rivalries.

As a writer, Joseph is funny, brilliantly observant. But the book itself meanders, strings together anecdotes rather than building arguments, sidesteps history and economics, and leans heavily on instinct. It is less a study than an extended editorial column: witty yet seldom cohesive.

Eventually, the question posed by the book has no easy resolution. The delivery rider will knock again tomorrow. The maid will continue scrubbing floors costlier than her annual salary. The guard will keep protecting wealth he'll never possess.

And so the mathematics of desperation will continue, the physics of inequality will remain.



WHY THE POOR DON'T KILL US
Manu Joseph
Aleph, pp 280, Rs 599

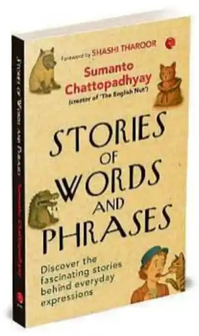
Boycott to Bluetooth: Words spill the tea

In a lively stroll through etymology, the author unpacks everyday expressions, revealing the surprising journeys that brought them into English, writes Siddharth Mohanty

I picked up Stories of Words and Phrases by Sumanto Chattopadhyay as a lark, expecting it to be an 'Ah, I know this already' affair. But this neatly produced book turned out to be a joyous journey into etymology, linguistics and cultural nuances. Here, each phrase is imbued with persona — it spins and dips and then reveals how it was born.

So, if you thought you already know all about words such as 'deadline', 'quarantine', 'Bluetooth' and phrases such as 'crocodile tears' and 'cost an arm and a leg', then you need to breeze through this book. You will soon find out that not only do many of these words and phrases have scandalous origins, but they also have quirky ancestors.

These are phrases that have sprung out of a potpourri of history, culture, trade, war and humour. Take the word boycott. A land agent in Ireland, Captain Boycott (from whose surname the word originated), was himself socially isolated not only by his employees but also by others in his community, for reasons related to new tenancy rules. Shops did not serve him, nor did the postman deliver his letters! And that's how his name became a household word. Another interesting anecdote is about the origins of the phrase 'run amok'. 'Amok' comes from the Malay word spelt 'amouco' or 'amuco' and reached English shores through the Portuguese. Captain James Cook, the famous British explorer, wrote in one of his journals that 'amok' is a person "behaving violently without any apparent cause".

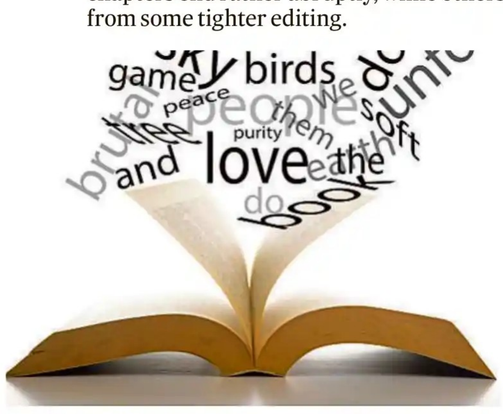


STORIES OF WORDS AND PHRASES
Sumanto Chattopadhyay
Rupa, pp 296, Rs 395

Sumanto doesn't lecture. He is gentle in his storytelling and quite obviously enjoys the absurdity of some of the stories he is narrating. His style is playful and conversational. This is a book you casually pick up while you are on your third cup of black coffee and are in the mood for some digging — of the etymological kind. Each chapter is a story by itself; just that the main and the side characters both happen to be words. Some of these are extraordinarily dramatic tales, while others are quiet nudges. The author's light touch ensures that you treat both kinds of stories like old friends...you know them, but it is only now, after years, that you are catching up with them again. Which is why, if you do not know where 'extend an olive branch' originates from, you don't really mind — you read, you learn, and you 'play it by ear'.

What is genuinely interesting is how the book does not stick only to the English origins of phrases but also takes the reader on a detour through Persian, Latin and Italian, among other languages, to show how every language is a tapestry woven from everywhere. The author also keeps the language free of jargon and ostentation, which is, frankly, a relief in a book about words!

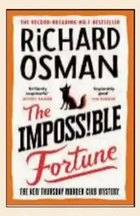
One wishes there were inclusions of words and phrases that have an Indian origin; needless to say, there are thousands of them. This would have allowed the author to dig a bit into how trade and colonialism, among other things, created the very unusual animal that serves us all — Indian English. Also, some chapters end rather abruptly, while others could have benefited from some tighter editing.



However, these are but minor quibbles. If you are the kind who loves trivia or you happen to be a crossword fanatic, this is a book you must pick up. I would also think a book like this would quite enliven up an English class, especially if a teacher builds puzzles and riddles from the stories it offers.

BOOKRACK

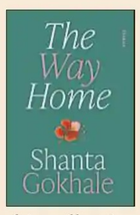
PERFECT HAPPINESS
You-Jeong Jeong
Penguin, pp 488, Rs 599
Yuna Shin is a dotting and charmingly beautiful woman, caring towards her family and prepares delicious dinner spreads. So, what happens when her daughter starts suspecting that bedtime stories will always come with disturbing dreams?



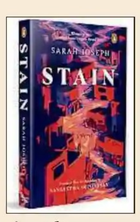
THE IMPOSSIBLE FORTUNE
Richard Osman
Viking, pp 432, Rs 599
It's been a quiet year for the Thursday Murder Club. But when Elizabeth meets a wedding guest who's in trouble, kidnapping and death are hot on their heels once more.

THE COURT OF THE DEAD
Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro
Puffin, pp 448, Rs 699

A few months after returning from the depths of Tartarus, demigods Nico di Angelo and Will Solace agree to join Nico's half-sister Hazel Levesque at Camp Jupiter. But a mysterious dark force is at work, and it plans to punish all monsters.



THE WAY HOME
Shanta Gokhale
SpeakingTiger, pp 248, Rs 499
The author brings her sharp understanding of the human condition to this collection of her finest short fiction. A deep knowledge of, and a sympathy for the lives of ordinary women and men, permeate every word.

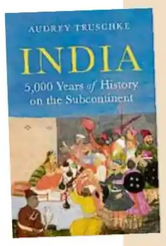


STAIN
Sarah Joseph
Penguin, pp 400, Rs 400
This is a book that reimagines the biblical scape as a fantastical Levantine dreamscape where truths are unravelled and humanity is questioned.

INTERVIEW

'History is under threat in India'

Author-historian Audrey Truschke, in conversation with Dushyant, reflects on the challenges of capturing India's complex past in her much-buzzed new book



Historian Audrey Truschke's new book, 'India: 5,000 Years of History on the Subcontinent,' is generating significant buzz and debate, with some critics finding controversy in its nuanced portrayal of the region's past. As a sweeping narrative of India's rich and diverse heritage, the book has sparked intense discussions about history, identity, and culture. In an exclusive interview with *DHoS*, Truschke discusses her approach to historiography, the challenges of writing about a complex past, and the relevance of history to contemporary debates, offering insights into her work and its impact on modern India.

How did you approach the challenge of condensing 5,000 years of Indian history into a single narrative, and what themes did you prioritise?
There is no single narrative of Indian history, and so I attempt to tell a series of discrete narratives with recurring themes, including diversity, migration, social stratification and climate change.

The book emphasises the diversity of human experiences on the subcontinent. Can you elaborate on how you incorporated the stories of marginalised groups?
We have more texts written by upper-caste men than any other premodern Indian community. To deal with this, I read texts against the grain to recover lost voices. Additionally, I searched high and low for less commonly known works by women and the marginalised classes and cited them alongside — sometimes instead of — works by dominant social groups.

The book covers the rise of Hindu nationalism in recent times. How do you see this phenomenon impacting the subcontinent's future?
The history of Hindutva is clear, with its origins in fascist movements of the 1920s and its current popularity starting in the 1970s. I think Hindutva's appeal is also clear, if horrific — it offers the majority more rights than everybody else. But Hindutva's future is unwritten. The only thing of which I am certain is that Hindutva will fall apart, at some point, like all fascist movements. The real question is how many Indians get hurt before that happens.

This temple on the Mundeshwari hill in Bihar is considered to be one of the earliest standing Hindu temples, as recorded by the discovery of an inscription dated AD 635. The painting is by Thomas Daniell.
(PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS)

The Silk Road and other trade routes played a significant role in shaping the subcontinent's history. How do you think these global connections influenced Indian cultural, economic, and political developments?
The Indian subcontinent today is unimaginable without extensive global connections and migrations over millennia. Here is a short list of things that entered the subcontinent via premodern global networks — humans, Indo-European languages, a lot of gold, marigold flowers, tomatoes, chilis, and features of several religions (including Hinduism and Islam). The Indian subcontinent has also long been a robust exporter of cultural and material goods.

Audrey Truschke

You highlight the significance of major texts in Indian history. How do you think these influence Indian society and culture today?
The Vedas have little direct impact on contemporary India, aside from select religious contexts. Far-right Hindu nationalists like to refer to the Vedas, but generally from a platform of total ignorance of their contents. The Mahabharata is another matter and constitutes an incisive commentary on the violence unleashed by states. I find it apt for considering modern conflicts, as do many others, judging from the continual retellings of this epic.

How do you believe your book can contribute to a deeper understanding of the Indian subcontinent's complex history and its place in the world?
History is under threat in the modern nation of India, and, for Indian readers, I hope that my book stands as a strong testament to academic honesty in recovering the diverse Indian past. We hear a lot these days about politically generated controversies about the past, but those are actually about present-day anxieties. In contrast, India seeks to open up the riches of the South Asian past for those with genuine intellectual curiosity about earlier generations.

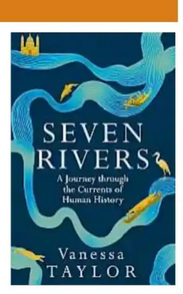
There's often a divide between academic and popular historians. Do you think this divide is necessary?
History is a big subject, and I think there's room for all of us. I appreciate that popular historians have often cultivated interest in the Indian past. That said, professional historians are equipped with skills that our popular counterparts generally lack, including training in historical methods and causality as well as the ability to read primary sources in their original language(s). These things aren't window dressing; they form the foundation for a thorough understanding of history.

READ OF THE WEEK

Rivers are the great natural arteries that run through our lives. We have navigated them, dammed them and worshipped at them. From the ancient ecosystems of Egypt to the sinking cities of Shanghai and London, what we do with our rivers tells us about who has power and what we value. Now, when a passion for wild swimming is flourishing but the Amazon is on fire and some of our major river systems are dying, it has never been clearer that rivers are intertwined with humanity at our best and our worst.

Seven Rivers is the story of the Nile, Danube, Niger, Mississippi, Ganga, Yangtze and the Thames. It is a story of imperial frontiers, alluvial gold, kidnappings, slavery, anticolonialism and creation myths. It is about those who've lived and died on these rivers and their endless capacity for invention: their lotus pools and hanging gardens, their gigantic canal systems and elaborate fishing rituals, their absolute powers and their sly rebellions.

Vanessa Taylor is a historian of rivers, water, and environmental history at the University of Greenwich in Britain. She has published extensively, written for *BBC History* Magazine, appeared on *Channel 4 TV*, and is one of the foremost experts on the history of the river Thames.



What's on your NAVARATRI platter?

Kiran Mehta visits Vadodara and discovers that Gujarati festive staples come with rich backstories centred around fasting and feasting

One of my early memories of Gujarat is watching jalebis being made at a streetside stall. I watched in wonder as a cook stood in front of a large, deep handi of bubbling hot oil. Using a cone filled with batter, he drew concentric circles over the searing oil. The jalebis bobbed to the surface, going from white to pale yellow and finally, a glowing orange. The sweet would then be served to us with a side of crispy fafda.

My most cherished memory is watching my aunt serve up magically puffed up rotlis. The rotlis, dabbed with a tea spoon of ghee, was served with shaak (vegetable or a cooked vegetable dish/bhaji).

A recent trip to Vadodara rekindled many such food-related memories. Ahead of the festive season, the markets had begun to display multi-coloured, mirror-work bearing chaniya cholis and embroidery-laced dandiyas. Locals keenly plan their garba nights – after all, the city hosts a record-breaking garba festival, which has made it to the Limca Book of Records. But no festival, particularly when it comes to this state, can be complete without food.

A popular festive food is a sweet dish called lapsi. "Lapsi is offered as bhog (sacred offering) to the goddess to mark the beginning of Navaratri," explains Chef Rajnish Kumar, Senior Chef de Partie, Sayaji Hotel, Vadodara. Chef Kumar explains that the dish is made of broken wheat (dalia), ghee and sugar (*see recipe).

Faraal-friendly versions

However, those who maintain a fast (vrat) during Navaratri traditionally avoid cereals and grains. Chef Kumar explains that lapsi is then substituted by singhada sheero. "We replace broken wheat with water chestnut (singhada). The water chestnut is dried and ground into a flour. To this, we add ghee and sugar, making for a faraal-friendly sweet," he adds.

Patra is a snack made of colocasia leaves.

The word, faraal, comes from phal ahaar, a diet of fruits. In a broader sense, a faraal diet consists of ingredients that are naturally occurring and were once foraged, rather than consciously cultivated ones such as cereals, grains and lentils.

Fasting also means avoiding spices and table salt (replacing the latter with rock salt or sendha namak). Today, the typical list of ingredients for those who maintain a fast includes fruits, a variety of vegetables and tubers, as well as dairy and its products. "When grains were cut out, those who worked labour intensive jobs needed their carbs. That's when pseudo grains such as amaranth (rajgira), buckwheat (kuttu) and barnyard millet (moriyo) became popular faraal ingredients," says Kurush F Dalal, archaeologist and culinary anthropologist, based in Mumbai.

Some popular faraal dishes that make an appearance during Navaratri (and other fasts) include moriyo, named after its main ingredient – barnyard millet. Chef Mahtab Ansari, Executive Chef, Sayaji Hotel, Vadodara, explains that it is usually cooked as a thick khichdi, in a porridge-like consistency and is made with yoghurt and rock salt, and garnished with coriander. "Moriyo is available on the Sayaji menu all year round but is extremely popular during fasting seasons. It is rich in complex carbs, low in glycemic index, easily digestible and high in Vitamin B, making it a power-packed ingredient, particularly for those who are fasting. It can be made into khichdi or even a kheer by cooking it with milk, jaggery and dry fruits," chef Ansari says. Amaranth (rajgira) is just as versatile and its flour can be used to make pooris, khandvi and sheera, adds chef Ansari.

Khandvi, a popular snack made of gram flour.

Retaining family traditions

Priyancy Savani, who lives in Mumbai, and traces her roots to Banaskantha in Gujarat tries to keep some of her family's food traditions alive. "Growing up, my mother (a Gujarati raised in South India) would make us puttu, delicate rice and coconut cakes steamed in a cylindrical vessel. The puttu could be enjoyed either with jaggery and ghee, or as a savoury item with a tempering of curry leaves and chilli. As children, these were much rejoiced meals. When I became a mother, I was determined to introduce my child to wholesome, complex carbs as soon as he started eating proper meals. I began experimenting with ingredients and dishes of my childhood. First I made savoury buckwheat crepes. Then I thought of recreating my mom's puttu with buckwheat. It has now become a faraal-friendly dish in our home. To my delight, my little one loves it."

Greens on the menu

Faraal menus also include greens such as luni (purslane), notes Mumbai-based culinary anthropologist Dalal. Luni, he says, is a popular choice for those who avoid table salt, because it has a naturally salty and sour flavour. Another green that makes for an apt faraal food is faang, a wild creeper that's as easily available as luni. "Faangia na muthia (steamed cakes) is absolutely delicious," says the Mumbai-based culinary anthropologist.

The popular yoghurt-based tangy Gujarati kadhi is also tweaked for fasts – gram flour gets replaced by water chestnut flour.

"Ber (Indian jujube) is grown in Gujarat. It is dried, powdered and used as an ingredient in kadhi for added flavour," explains Dalal.

Taro leaves (colocasia) grow abundantly, particularly in the monsoon, around the time of Navaratri. The leaves are used in patra, a savoury snack that you can't miss when in Gujarat. While traditional patra is made with a gram flour and spice mixed batter, the vrat version uses water chestnut flour. The coated leaves are rolled into circles. The preparation is then steamed and later pan-friend for extra crispiness.

Prachi Mehta, who grew up in Mumbai, often made trips to her aunt's holiday home near Vapi. "I remember eating a bhaji made of taro leaves. I don't know the recipe or the name of the dish. But I was fascinated as I watched it being prepared in an earthen pot, over a wood fire, outdoors. We all sat outside and enjoyed the dish and that's one of my cherished memories from the family holiday," she says.

Perhaps, all feasts and fasts are meant to be about slowing down and savouring every moment with your loved ones.

Lapsi is offered as bhog to the goddess to mark the beginning of Navaratri. PIC COURTESY: SAYAJI HOTEL, VADODARA

Recipe for lapsi

Ingredients:

- 1 cup wheat flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup ghee
- 1/2 cup water
- Cardamom powder or saffron (optional)

Method

- Heat ghee in a pan and fry the flour till it turns golden.
- Make syrup by mixing sugar and water in another pan.
- Add the flour to the syrup and mix well.
- Heat the mixture till it thickens.
- Add cardamom powder or saffron for flavour.

COURTESY: SAYAJI HOTEL, VADODARA

A Dasara spread

Karnataka has its distinct set of food traditions around Dasara. Each day of the ten-day festivities is marked by a different delicacy, sweet and savoury. For instance, for Saraswati pooje, belladа dosae (a jaggery-based dosae) or sajjappa (a deep-friend stuffed sweet dish) are made. Durgashtami, which is the eighth day of Dasara, is associated with ambode (a lentil-based fried snack).

The habbada oota or festive spread involves a range of side dishes from kosambaris (light salads), palyas (vegetable stir fries) or tambulis (yoghurt-based dishes), to complement the main course of rice-based dishes and huli (sambar). No festive spread is complete without payasa (kheer).

Obbattu or kayi holige is a must on most Karnataka platters.

Sweets like obbattu or holige and Mysore pak are on the menu as well.

Much like everywhere else, Dasara in the state means fostering a sense of community, celebration and sharing. It is Karnataka's Nada Habba or the state festival, after all.

Wellness

Genetics at the heart of it

Ahead of World Heart Day tomorrow, Dr M Sudhakar Rao highlights the role of genetics in early onset heart disease

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) have emerged as the leading cause of mortality worldwide, surpassing even cancer and respiratory illnesses. Alarming data suggests that in India, one in four individuals who suffer a heart attack is younger than 45 years of age. While well-known culprits like smoking, high cholesterol, diabetes, hypertension, and family history continue to play a major role, research has increasingly highlighted the genetic underpinnings of early-onset cardiovascular diseases.

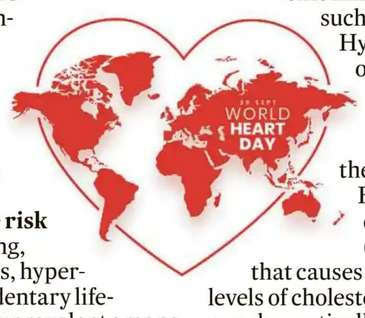
What is early-onset cardiovascular disease?

Early-onset cardiovascular disease refers to heart-related conditions that manifest at an unusually young age, often before the age of 40. Unlike the traditional perception of heart disease as a condition of middle-aged or elderly individuals, these cases affect otherwise young and active people, sometimes leading to devastating consequences such as sudden cardiac arrest or premature death.

One of the most concerning conditions in this group is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), a genetic cardiac disorder that affects around 1 in 500 individuals. This cardiac disorder is not only the most common genetic heart condition but also a leading cause attributed to sudden cardiac death among children, teenagers, and young adults.

Risk factors: modifiable vs non-modifiable

Like most chronic diseases, early-onset CVDs result from a mix of modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.



- **Modifiable risk factors:** Smoking, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and sedentary lifestyles are widely prevalent among young Indians. Substance abuse, particularly the use of opioids and anabolic steroids, further adds to cardiovascular risk in this particular age group.
- **Non-modifiable risk factors:** Genetics play a crucial role. In many cases, a family history of premature heart disease significantly increases the risk, even when other factors like lifestyle habits are relatively healthy.

The genetic connection

The role of genetics in heart disease was first recognised in specific inherited conditions such as:

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) – leading cause of sudden cardiac death among the young.

Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) – a disorder that causes dangerously high levels of cholesterol from an early age, dramatically increasing the risk of premature coronary artery disease (CAD).

Beyond these, genetic variants in cardiac ion channels have also been linked to life-threatening arrhythmias such as ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. Mutations in the SCN5A gene, for instance, are implicated in Long QT syndrome, a condition that predisposes one to early onset heart disease.

Cardiogenetics: pathway to prevention

The emerging field of cardiogenetics offers new hope in addressing early-onset CVDs. By focusing on the genetic basis of heart disease, it enables early diagnosis, risk prediction, and personalised interventions.

For example:

- **Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH):** In individuals with FH and a family history of premature coronary deaths, starting cholesterol-lowering therapy early can significantly cut the risk of heart attacks.
- **Cardiomyopathies:** Families with a history of hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy can benefit from genetic testing, which allows for early diagnosis, timely monitoring, and targeted interventions to prevent heart failure or sudden death.

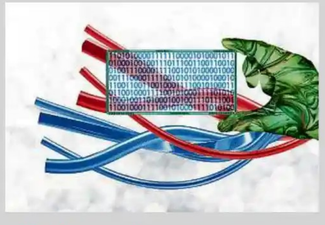
Genetic screening, therefore, becomes a powerful preventive tool. For at-risk individuals, it allows doctors to predict the likelihood of certain conditions before symptoms appear, giving them the opportunity to act proactively. Preventive strategies may include lifestyle modifications, regular monitoring, medications, or in some cases, advanced therapies and devices to reduce the risk of sudden cardiac events.

Way forward

The rising burden of early-onset cardiovascular disease, particularly in India, highlights the urgent need for awareness about both lifestyle risks and genetic factors. While healthy habits such as avoiding tobacco, eating a balanced diet, staying physically active, and managing stress remain essential, they may not be enough for those with a strong genetic predisposition.

(The author is consultant - cardiology at a Bengaluru hospital.)

Rare genetic syndromes & premature heart disease



- **Marfan syndrome:** connective tissue disorder often associated with aortic aneurysm, dilation, or dissection.
- **Ehlers-Danlos syndrome:** connective tissue disorder that predisposes individuals to arterial dissections and aneurysms.

These conditions may not always be visible early on but can cause catastrophic cardiovascular events without warning.

Managing anorectal discomfort

DR HARSHAVARDHAN RAO B

Anal discomfort is a topic that often causes embarrassment, but it is more common than people think. The anus and rectum have structures that contain blood vessels and glands, and precise mechanisms for smooth bowel movements. However, abnormalities which can increase the pressure or friction in this area can result in injury and/or infections. Diseases of the ano-rectum include swollen blood vessels (haemorrhoids/varices), small tears (fissures) and abnormal tracts from infection (fistulae). People often group these conditions together, calling them 'piles' and trying quick remedies of doubtful benefit, which can make the condition worse. Misdiagnosis of these conditions can result in ineffective treatment and needless suffering.

Symptoms of anorectal disease

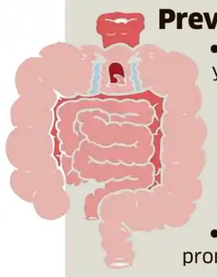
Each condition has its own set of characteristic signs.

- **Haemorrhoids/piles:** Piles are swollen vascular tufts in the anal canal. They can cause pain, worsen constipation and also cause bleeding in the stools. There can be irritation, itching and swelling around the anus. External haemorrhoids develop under the skin near the anus and can be very painful when complicated by a blood clot. Patients typically mention bleeding drops that they notice after the passage of stools with/without pain in the perianal area.
- **Anal fissures:** Anal fissures are small tears in the lining of the anus causing sharp pain and minor bleeding during and after stool passes. Patients experience pricking type of pain while the stool is passed and can notice some blood mixed with the stool. Severe pain can even result in patients avoiding passing stools, exacerbate the problem.
- **Fistula:** Fistulae are abnormal tunnels that form between the anal canal and the skin nearby. They start with an infection or abscess and turn into passage that keeps draining pus or fluid. This is different from the bleeding seen with piles and fissures. Fistulae can also be seen with serious disorders like Crohn's disease or tuberculosis and needs further evaluation.

Causes

Although the three conditions impact the same area, the cause can be multifactorial. Constipation and straining are the most common association, because the pressure either damages the vascular tufts or tears the anal lining.

Fissures may also occur due to chronic diarrhoea, childbirth trauma, or anal injury. Fistulae are almost always the result of infections. An anal gland infection that turns into an abscess may fail to heal properly and form a tunnel, creating a permanent fistula.



Prevention tips

- Include fibre-rich food in your diet.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Avoid prolonged straining.
- Avoid alcohol.
- Exercise daily.
- Seek medical advice promptly.

Treatment

Piles may be controlled with lifestyle changes, including high-fiber diet in meals, increased fluid intake and avoiding straining. In case of bleeding or blood clots, minor procedures such as band ligation, injection treatment or surgery in severe cases may be needed. Fissures do well with conservative management. Medicated creams and stool softeners generally permit the tear to heal, but chronic fissures that won't improve would eventually need surgery. Fistulae, however, are rarely amenable to conservative measures. Because they result from persistent infections and form abnormal tracts, surgery is almost always the definitive treatment. Treatment depends on the type of fistula, underlying conditions, persistence of infection and general condition of the patient.

When to consult a doctor?

Consult a doctor when you feel rectal pain, mucus in the stools or pus-like discharge near the anal area are persistent for more than a couple of days. Bleeding in the stools can be the first sign of serious internal disorders like inflammatory bowel disease or even cancer. Self-diagnosis and self-treatment may worsen the condition while early diagnosis by specialists and effective treatment matter.

(The author is HoD and consultant, Department of Medical Gastroenterology at a Bengaluru hospital.)

Apart from the beer, the Bavarian capital offers an exploration of art, history, and Alpine beauty, writes Prachi Joshi

Munich, beyond Oktoberfest

Think of Munich and you will most likely picture large mugs of beer and Oktoberfest revelry. The world-famous beer festival is undoubtedly a big draw—in its 190th edition this year, Oktoberfest, which started on September 20, will conclude on October 5. But there's much more to Germany's third largest city, apart from its (admittedly excellent) beer. So if you're in Munich for Oktoberfest, here's what to see and do in the city beyond guzzling beer.

The neo-Gothic heart of Munich, Marienplatz, is where all the action is. This has been the central square since the city's foundation in the 12th-century. It is flanked by several impressive buildings like the Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall) with its decorative façade, the comparatively austere Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall), and St Peter's Church, the city's oldest church dating to the 12th century. If you arrive at the square around noon, you will find hordes of people milling about looking up at the Glockenspiel clock on the town hall's main tower. When the clock strikes twelve, watch the elaborate parade of 32 life-sized copper figures in colourful livery jousting, dancing, and spinning around, ending with a golden bird chirping thrice. A short stroll from the square will bring you to Frauenkirche, the 15th-century Gothic-style cathedral with elegant twin towers that are an unmistakable symbol of the city.

Royal touch

Not too far from the cathedral is Residenz, the former royal palace of the Bavarian monarchs, which sits pretty amidst the landscaped Hofgarten (Court Garden). It is also the largest city palace in Germany and contains a treasure trove of art and artefacts in its royal rooms. Take a guided tour to admire the Antiquarium hallway decorated with incredible Renaissance frescoes, the Wittelsbach Treasury that holds a collection of royal jewels spanning more than 1,000 years, and the opulent Cuvilliés Theatre with luxurious red-and-gold Rococo interiors. Another royal palace worth checking out is the Baroque-style Nymphenburg Palace, which was the summer residence for the erstwhile rulers of Bavaria. Gape at the stunning ceiling frescoes in the Marble Hall and admire the lavishly decorated rooms featuring gilded stucco, exquisite tapestries, and artworks that reflect centuries of Bavarian royal heritage. Later, explore its vast parkland, dotted with pavilions, lakes, and sculpted gardens; don't miss Amalienburg,

The skyline as evening falls over the city.

Nymphenburg Palace, the summer residence of former Bavarian royalty.

a powder-pink, Rococo-style hunting lodge, which includes an elaborate hall of mirrors and a charming kennel room for the hunting dogs. The palace is easily accessible from the city centre by public transport.

Cultural immersion

Munich is home to an exceptional range of museums—its trio of Pinakothek museums forms one of Europe's most impressive art collections. Each is dedicated to a different era, so you can take your pick as per your preference. The Alte Pinakothek, housed in a grand 19th-century building, is celebrated for its Old Masters, featuring works by Dürer, Rubens, Rembrandt, etc. On the other hand, the Neue Pinakothek focuses on 19th-century art, with masterpieces by Van Gogh, Monet, Cézanne, and more. While the museum is currently closed (until 2030) for renovations, many of its stand-out artworks are on display on the ground floor of the Alte Pinakothek. Finally,

Oktoberfest is in its 190th edition this year.

The stunning interiors of the Antiquarium.

Monopteros temple, atop the English Garden in Munich.

the Pinakothek der Moderne, a striking contemporary structure, brings together modern art, design, architecture, and graphic works under one roof.

Natural beauty

Munich is famous for its lush parks where you can slow down and enjoy the outdoors. At the heart of this green network is the English Garden, one of the largest inner-city parks in the world; it's bigger even than New York's Central Park! Stretching across sweeping meadows, shaded woodlands, and tranquil lakes, it's the perfect spot for cycling, picnicking, or simply strolling. The park is also known for its lively beer gardens and the Eisbach River, where you can watch surfers ride a continuous wave year-round. For sweeping views of the garden, climb to Monopteros, a 19th-century replica Greek temple commissioned by King Ludwig I.

Speaking of panoramic views, Germany's highest mountain, Zugspitze is easily accessible from Munich and makes for a great day trip from the city. Take a train from the central station to the ski town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen from where a blue-and-white cog-wheel train will bring you to Zugspitzplatt or Zugspitze Glacier Plateau. This isn't the summit, but there are great views to be had from here. Also, there are a few restaurants (including a vegetarian one) where you can stop for a bite. The final ascent is via a cable car, which brings you to the massive viewing platform with a stunning vista of the mountain and the surrounding Alps. Zugspitze straddles the border between Germany and Austria, so you can easily cross the platform to the Austrian side for a look.

For the descent, take the cable car all the way down to Eibsee, the scenic blue-green lake at the foot of the mountain. If you're the adventurous sort, Zugspitze offers hiking opportunities in summer and skiing in winter.

Whether you are drawn to its royal heritage, artistic treasures, or alpine landscapes, Munich invites you to stay a bit longer and explore its many layers at your own pace. We'd raise a beer stein to that!

Cog-wheel train to Zugspitze.
PICS COURTESY: DZT (FLORIAN TRYKOWSKI)

Lake Eibsee is a good getaway from Munich.

Marienplatz, a central square.

ADVERTORIAL

Advertorial

A Land of Stories

Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World
neil@veenaworld.com

...It's one of the few living structures visible from space. But what's truly mesmerising isn't just its size, it's its colour. Because the reef doesn't look the same twice...

I lived in Australia for four years between 2009 and 2013. And in those four years, I came to realise something: Australia isn't just a country—it's a place where the stories stayed with me. Unexpected, curious, sometimes unbelievable—Australia is full of them. So today, I want to take you through five such stories. Let's get started.

Why do Koalas sleep so much?

If you've ever seen a koala in a wildlife sanctuary or a photo of one, you probably saw it curled up in a tree, eyes closed, doing what it does best: sleeping. And not just a quick nap either. Koalas are champions of sleeping, clocking anywhere between 18 to 22 hours of sleep a day. That's almost the entire day gone in dozing. But why? The answer lies in their diet.

Koalas eat almost nothing but eucalyptus leaves. These leaves might smell fresh and look pretty, but they're low in nutrition, hard to digest, and even toxic to most animals. Koalas have evolved to tolerate them, but that doesn't mean they get a burst of energy from their meals. In fact, digesting eucalyptus is such slow, energy-intensive work that koalas need to conserve all the energy they can—by doing as little as possible.

That's why they nap through most of the day. Every ounce of movement is calculated: they climb slowly, shift rarely, and spend their waking hours chewing methodically. It's not laziness, it's survival. And once you know this, seeing a koala curled up in the crook of a tree feels less like a photo op and more like watching an ancient rhythm of nature at work.

The Sacred Story of Ayers Rock

Imagine standing in the middle of Australia's vast Red Centre. All around you, flat desert stretches to the horizon—until suddenly, rising out of the earth like a sleeping giant, is a massive, rust-red rock. That's Uluru. And once you see it, you never forget it.

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is one of the world's most iconic monoliths. It rises 348 meters above the desert floor and spans over 9 kilometers in circumference. For the local Anangu people, the traditional custodians of the land, Uluru is a sacred site. Every ridge, cave, and crack has meaning. It tells the story of the Dreamtime—an ancient spiritual belief system that speaks of how the world was created.

Geologists will tell you that Uluru was formed over 500 million years ago, once part of the seabed. Over time, tectonic forces pushed it upward, and wind and water sculpted its surface. Its vivid red hue comes from iron oxidation—essentially, it's rusting in slow motion. But when you watch Uluru glow like fire at sunrise or shimmer gold at sunset, science takes a backseat. In that moment, you feel the magic.

The Reef that doesn't look the same twice

Stretching over 2,300 kilometres along Australia's northeastern coast, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system on Earth—and it's one of the few living structures visible from space. But what's truly mesmerising isn't just its size, it's its colour. Because the reef doesn't look the same twice.

Depending on the time of day, season, weather, and even your viewing angle, the Great Barrier Reef shifts in appearance. Fly over it on a sunny day and you'll see streaks of turquoise, jade, and cobalt woven together like an underwater painting. Snorkel or dive into it, and suddenly the details burst to life—neon corals, darting parrotfish, slow-gliding turtles, and flashes of silver as schools of fish move in synchrony.

This ever-changing colour palette is more than just beauty—it's a sign of life. Coral polyps, tiny creatures that build the reef, coexist with microscopic algae that give them both their colour and energy. And in certain seasons, travellers might witness the annual coral spawning—a phenomenon where the reef releases billions of eggs and sperm into the sea, all at once, like a marine snowfall.

The Epic Train Ride Across a Continent

If you ever want to feel the vastness of Australia—not just see it, but really feel it—step aboard the Indian Pacific. This legendary train journey stretches from Sydney on the east coast to Perth on the west, covering a staggering 4,352 kilometres across mountains, deserts, goldfields, and plains. It's one of the longest and most iconic rail journeys in the world.

Named after the two oceans it connects—the Indian and the Pacific—the journey takes four days and three nights. But what makes it unforgettable is not just the length, it's the landscapes that roll past your window. You'll cross the Blue Mountains just hours after leaving Sydney. Then, gradually, eucalyptus forests give way to the ochre tones of the outback. And eventually, you hit one of the most surreal sections: the Nullarbor Plain.

The Nullarbor is Latin for "no trees," and for nearly 500 kilometres, you'll travel in a straight line across the longest stretch of dead-straight railway track in the world. It's so flat, so wide, that the sky feels impossibly large. In fact, this stretch is so remote that the train stops at tiny outposts like Cook—population: four—just to refuel and give passengers a glimpse into life off the grid.

The Longest Fence in the World

Stretching farther than the Great Wall of China and longer than the distance from Mumbai to Moscow, Australia's Dingo Fence is one of the longest man-made structures in the world. Built in the 1880s, this 5,600-kilometre barrier was originally designed to keep dingoes—Australia's native wild dogs—away from fertile farmland in the southeast.

The fence begins in the state of Queensland, runs through New South Wales, and ends in South Australia near the cliffs of the Nullarbor Plain. It slices across deserts, saltbush plains, and remote scrubland—maintained even today by teams who drive along its length for days at a time just to check for breaches. It's a job so remote that some fence workers live in houses hundreds of kilometres from the nearest neighbour.

Today, the Dingo Fence is both a feat of agricultural engineering and a subject of scientific study. Some argue it protects livestock, others say it disrupts natural ecosystems. But no matter where you stand, it's hard not to be awed by the sheer ambition and scale of this invisible, often-forgotten line across Australia's vast interior.

So yup, those were my 5 stories about Australia for you today! Maybe it's time to go back. Or go for the first time. Because this island-continent isn't just a destination—it's a storyteller, waiting to share its secrets with you. See you!

Email: travel@veenaworld.com | Read articles by Neil Patil, Veena Patil, and Sunila Patil every week. Just scan the QR code below or visit the Veena World website: www.veenaworld.com

Australia is Veena World's forte!

Join thousands who have experienced it. Travel to one of the stunning southernmost countries with top combos, great sightseeing, and trusted services. What are you waiting for?

Best of Australia (9D) Nov 23, Jan 10 358000	Splendours of Australia 10 Days - Feb 20 370000	Wonders of Australia 11 Days - Feb 28 385000	Jewels of Australia 13 Days - Feb 26 440000
Australia New Zealand 11 Days - Feb 7 360000	Australia New Zealand 17 Days - Dec 28 625000	Women's Special Australia 9 Days - Mar 4 358000	Seniors' Special Australia 9 Days - Feb 22 358000

*T&C Apply

All of Australia
15 Days - Dec 4, Jan 23
@ ₹515000
All-Inclusive
Bengaluru to Bengaluru

Book Online
365 days
24x7
Visit veenaworld.com

veenaworld.com | Toll-Free: 1800 313 5555 | 1800 22 7979
Veena World Bengaluru: Jayanagar 887 997 2217 | Indiranagar 887 997 9500

Veena World
Australia
Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado!

VEENA WORLD
Travel. Explore. Celebrate Life.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Cosmic wonders

A new exhibition is shifting the focus from popular deities to lesser-known but enthralling demigods, each one imbued with rich symbolism, discovers

Giridhar Khasnis

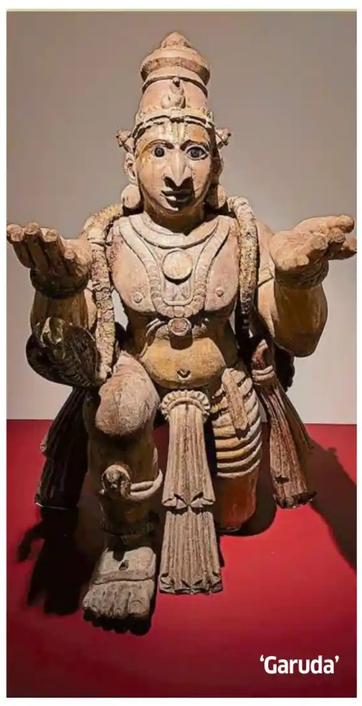
The sky has long captivated humanity, serving as a source of wonder, inspiration, and mystery. Even our earliest ancestors, who roamed in small groups in search of food and safety, found time to marvel at the vast expanse above. As they developed a deeper understanding of their environment and moved beyond basic survival needs, their sense of awe, curiosity, and imagination about nature flourished. Gazing at the sky—both at day and at night—encouraged them to rise above their primal instincts and explore the depths of the unknown.

Throughout history, humans have documented, revered, and interpreted celestial bodies, weaving them into the very fabric of civilisation. The stories and observations of cosmic objects have greatly influenced culture, science, art, and our understanding of humanity's place in the universe.

Indian mythology offers a rich tapestry of narratives that include legendary figures, cosmic associations, and epic conflicts. While gods, goddesses, kings, queens, and demons fill these tales, a remarkable array of celestial creatures and divine beings also play critical roles. These messengers, consorts, charioteers, and guardians have captivated artists and audiences alike.

Within Indian mythology, few beings evoke as much awe and reverence as Garuda, known as the 'King of Birds.' As the divine vehicle of Lord Vishnu, this mythical bird—often associated with the sun and fire—symbolises strength, speed, devotion, and the triumph of good over evil. Nandi, the sacred bull, is another enduring symbol of power and prosperity that prominently appears in classical Indian art and architecture. Massive statues of Nandi often greet visitors at the entrance of ancient Shiva temples. The renowned Dodda Basava temple in Bengaluru, built in the 16th century, continues to attract both locals and tourists alike.

'Angel'



'Garuda'

'Ketu with parrot' (All pics by author)

Diverse collection

Garuda and Nandi are part of a group of wondrous creatures and mythical beings featured in a curated exhibition titled 'In Celestial Company,' currently on display at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru.

This exhibition presents a diverse collection of sculptures, textiles, metal figurines, paintings, and wooden artefacts from MAP's extensive collection, unveiling a variety of stories, symbols, and transformative journeys related to fascinating hybrid figures found across India's cultural and religious traditions.

It focuses on mythical beings such as attendants, vahanas, and companions, who often play essential supportive roles in mythology but are rarely given recognition, and explores their stories, symbolism, and distinctive qualities through various artworks.

The oldest piece on display is a 1636 stone sculpture of Ketu from Bhuj, Gujarat. This enigmatic 'shadow planet' is depicted with a heavy moustache and a mace in hand, perched upon a handsome parrot. Nearby stands a recent artwork depicting Dhumavati, the widow goddess among the 10 Mahavidyas, riding a chariot without horses, topped with a crow. This watercolour from West Bengal was painted as recently as 2016. Situated between these two pieces is a small copper sculpture from South India, dating back to the 17th or 18th century, which depicts Bhairava accompanied by a dog. Another notable piece is the Somanadi Vahana, a richly coloured wood sculpture depicting a beautifully carved lion with raised arms, its fiery face elegantly balanced by the twist of its extended tail. Other eye-catching sculptures include a large wooden Airavata Vahana depicting Indra's winged elephant, and a 19th or 20th-century piece from Odisha, portraying the sinuous, delicately rendered form of Matsya, the celestial fish.

The 'King of Birds' features prominently in the show. A wooden sculpture of a kneeling Garuda (1900, Tamil Nadu) with raised arms and wide eyes is accompanied by three exquisite watercolour paintings from the Jaipur school of miniatures depicting the same birdman. One painting depicts Garuda's bold quest to obtain Amrita to rescue his mother from the Nagas (snakes), while another illustrates the moment when Garuda devours the snakes. The breathtaking use of colour, composition, and figurative manipulation in these works conveys a range of interconnected tales. It also features several notable pieces, including a standing mayura (peacock), a temple chariot (Ratha), Ganga and Makara in a textile label, Yamuna perched on a turtle at her feet, and others.

Although the overarching theme is intriguing, there may not be many surprises for those already familiar with the subject. That said, it still makes for an interesting visit.

'In Celestial Company' is on display at MAP, Bengaluru, till January 18, 2026.

ESOTERICA — *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

This month in 1985, oceanographers on a top-secret Cold War mission discovered the wreckage of the Titanic nearly 12,500 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic. The cloak-and-dagger origins of this discovery remain fascinating, but what truly endures is how the wreck has served as a living laboratory. Over these past 40 years, it has deepened human understanding across fields as varied as microbiology, materials science, oceanography, and archaeology. We have dived deep to bring to the fore the key...

SCIENCE LESSONS FROM THE TITANIC WRECKAGE

Oceanographer Robert Ballard needed funding to test his new deep-sea imaging sled, Argo, to search for the Titanic. The U.S. Navy, however, had a classified priority: to survey the wreckage of two lost nuclear submarines, the USS Thresher and USS Scorpion. They agreed to fund Ballard's Argo system on the condition he first completed the secret mission. After successfully locating and assessing the submarines, Ballard used the remaining time to successfully locate the Titanic.

MARINE GEOLOGY

The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912. This exact date has given scientists a unique time marker, enabling them to track deep-sea processes – such as metal corrosion, the formation of deep-sea ecosystems, and sediment accumulation – from a known starting point.

The wreckage site revealed that the deep-sea floor is dynamic, with currents strong enough to create ripples and waves in the sand. This disproved the previously held idea that the deep ocean is geologically inactive.

MATERIALS SCIENCE

For materials scientists, the Titanic remained a forensic puzzle until its discovery – Why did a vessel billed as "unsinkable" shatter so quickly in the North Atlantic? Tests on steel and rivets recovered from the wreck revealed flaws in the material – too much sulphur and too little manganese – which made it brittle in freezing temperatures. These findings reinforced global standards in shipbuilding and offshore engineering.

BIOLOGY

The wreckage site is now a remarkable artificial reef that supports at least 28 species and several ecosystems. Some of the species and ecosystems were previously unknown, proving that the deep sea is biologically active and life can persist in the harshest conditions.

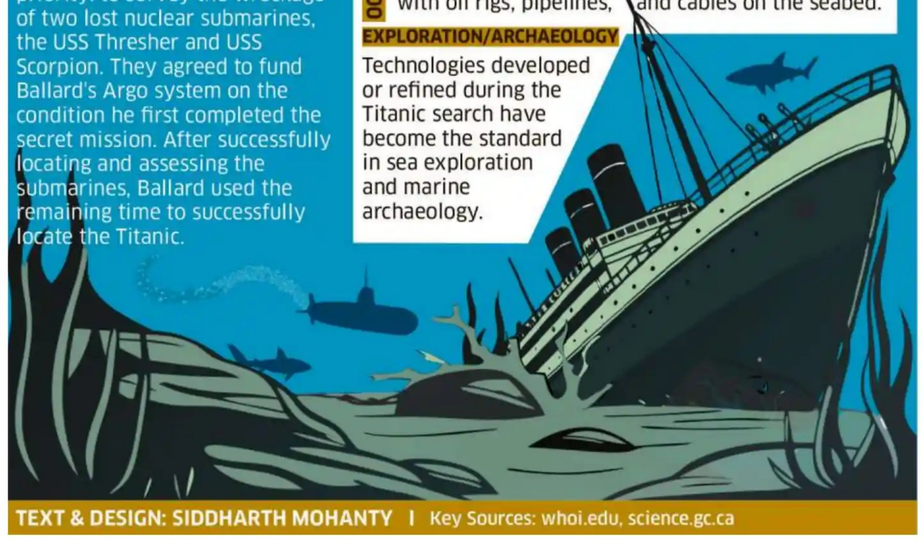
Among the new species, microbiologists have identified iron-eating bacteria that are devouring the Titanic's steel hull, forming eerie rust stalactites called "rusticles." These microbes, thrive in total darkness, feeding on metal. Their discovery has opened new possibilities for research in waste management, environmental cleanup, and space science.

OCEANOGRAPHY

By tracking the Titanic's slow decay, oceanographers have mapped the forces of deep-sea currents and corrosion, collecting vital data on how the ocean reclaims the man-made – research that is invaluable for sectors and industries dealing with oil rigs, pipelines, and cables on the seabed.

EXPLORATION/ARCHAEOLOGY

Technologies developed or refined during the Titanic search have become the standard in sea exploration and marine archaeology.



TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Key Sources: whoi.edu, science.gc.ca

TRUE VALUE
MARUTI SUZUKI
BUY A PRE-OWNED CAR WITH UP TO 1 YEAR WARRANTY.
EXPERIENCE TRUE VALUE
MARUTI SUZUKI
TRUE VALUE
TRUE VALUE CERTIFIED
CELEBRATING
60 Lakh
STORIES OF TRUST
Download on the App Store
Google play
Download the App here.
376 QUALITY CHECK POINTS
VERIFIED CAR HISTORY*
UP TO 1 YEAR WARRANTY & 3 FREE SERVICES*
*T&C apply. Verified Car History & Warranty applicable only on True Value certified cars. Free service is applicable on labor charges only.
Appearance of black shades on the glass is due to lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only
For enquiry, call 1800 102 1800 | Visit www.marutisuzukitruevalue.com
TRUE VALUE CERTIFIED
BANGALORE: ELECTRONIC CITY / CHANDAPURA, SURAKSHAA CAR CARE: 8884442360, 8884442301 | HESARGHATTA / SUMMANAHALLI JUNCTION, VARUN MOTORS: 9513979172, 9620833320 | WHITEFIELD, BIMAL AUTO: 9880699997, 9742271855 | MYSORE ROAD / WHITEFIELD / UTTARAHALLI / KR PURAM / MAGADI ROAD / THANISANDRA, KALYANI MOTORS: 9008099721, 9886353916, 9900026475, 9900023527, 9008555785, 9845179376 | SARJAPUR, PRATHAM MOTORS: 9686529082, 9632008765 | YESHWANTPUR / GG PALYA, RNS MOTORS: 7760989633, 9606933236 | VIJAYANAGAR / BASAVESHWAR NAGAR / YELAHANKA / JP NAGAR, MANDOVI MOTORS: 9686699756, 9686699757, 9980930227, 9880912413 | MYSORE ROAD, KATARIA AUTOMOBILES: 9742190214, 9742880444 | HULIMAAVU, SANVIT AUTOMOTIVES LLP: 9108427383 | MADAVARA, AVANISH AUTO LLP: 9108429127 | TUMKUR, SAKETH AUTOMOBILES: 7625000706.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com